

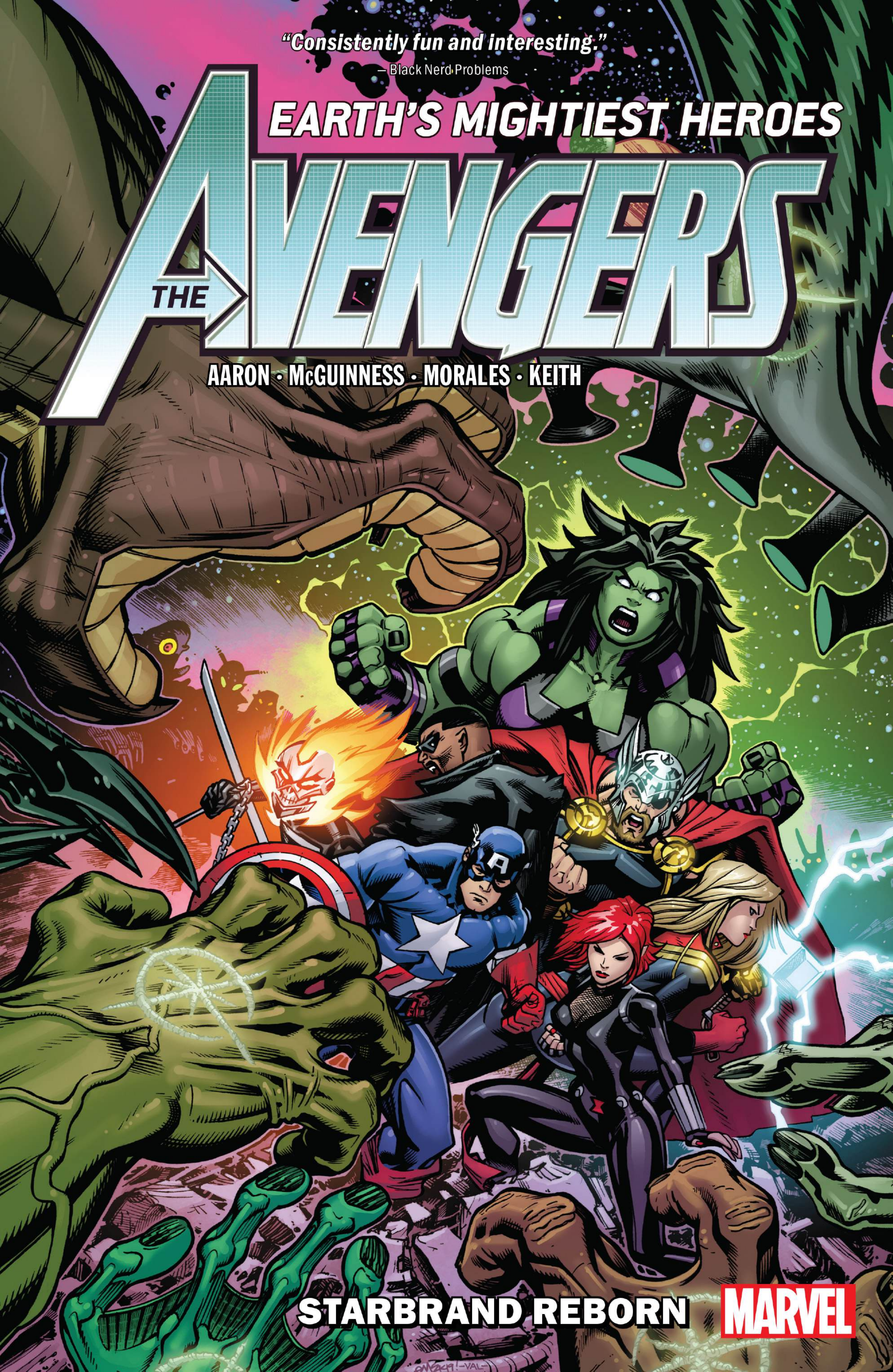
"Consistently fun and interesting."

— Black Nerd Problems

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS

AARON • McGUINNESS • MORALES • KEITH

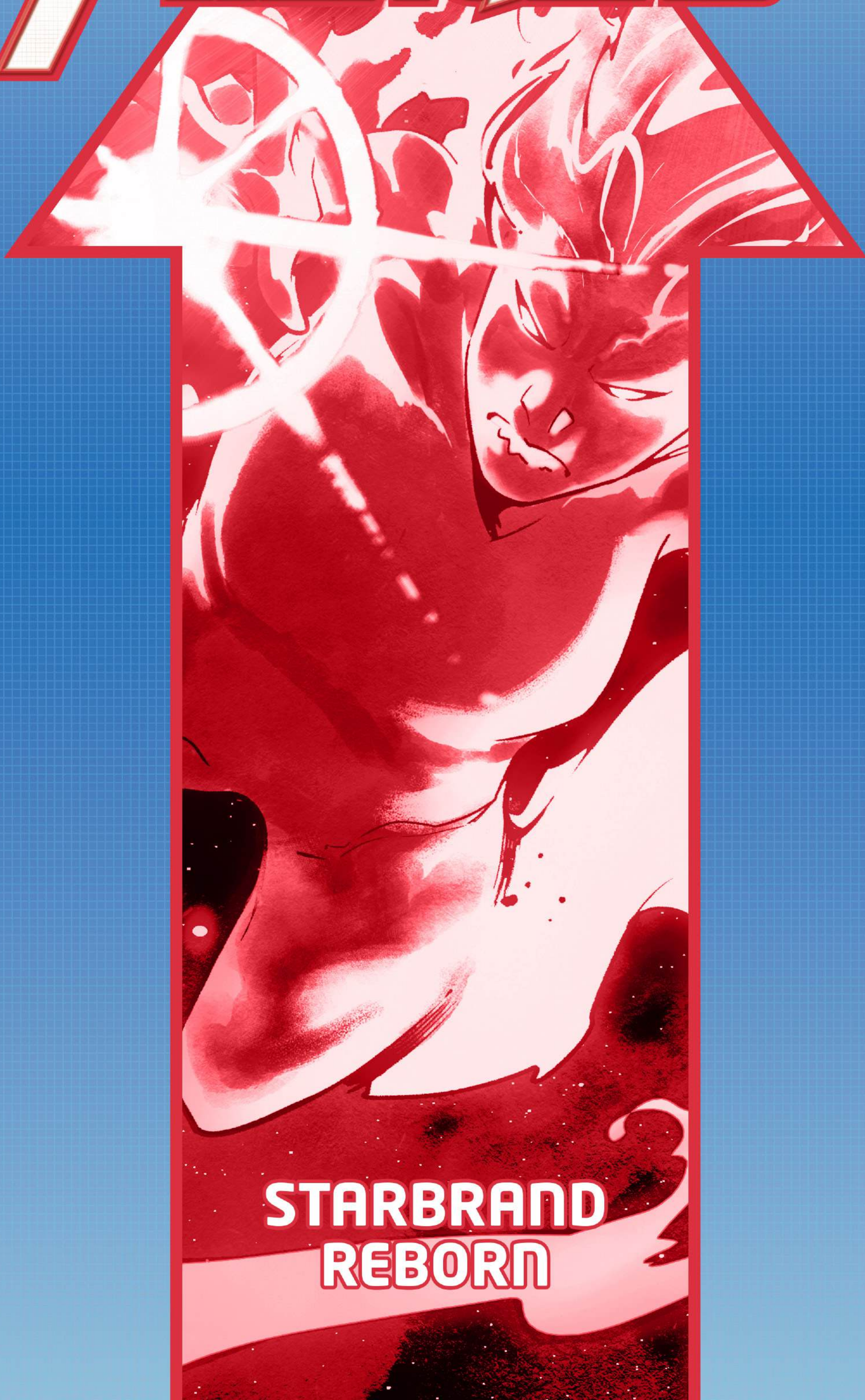


STARBRAND REBORN

MARVEL

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

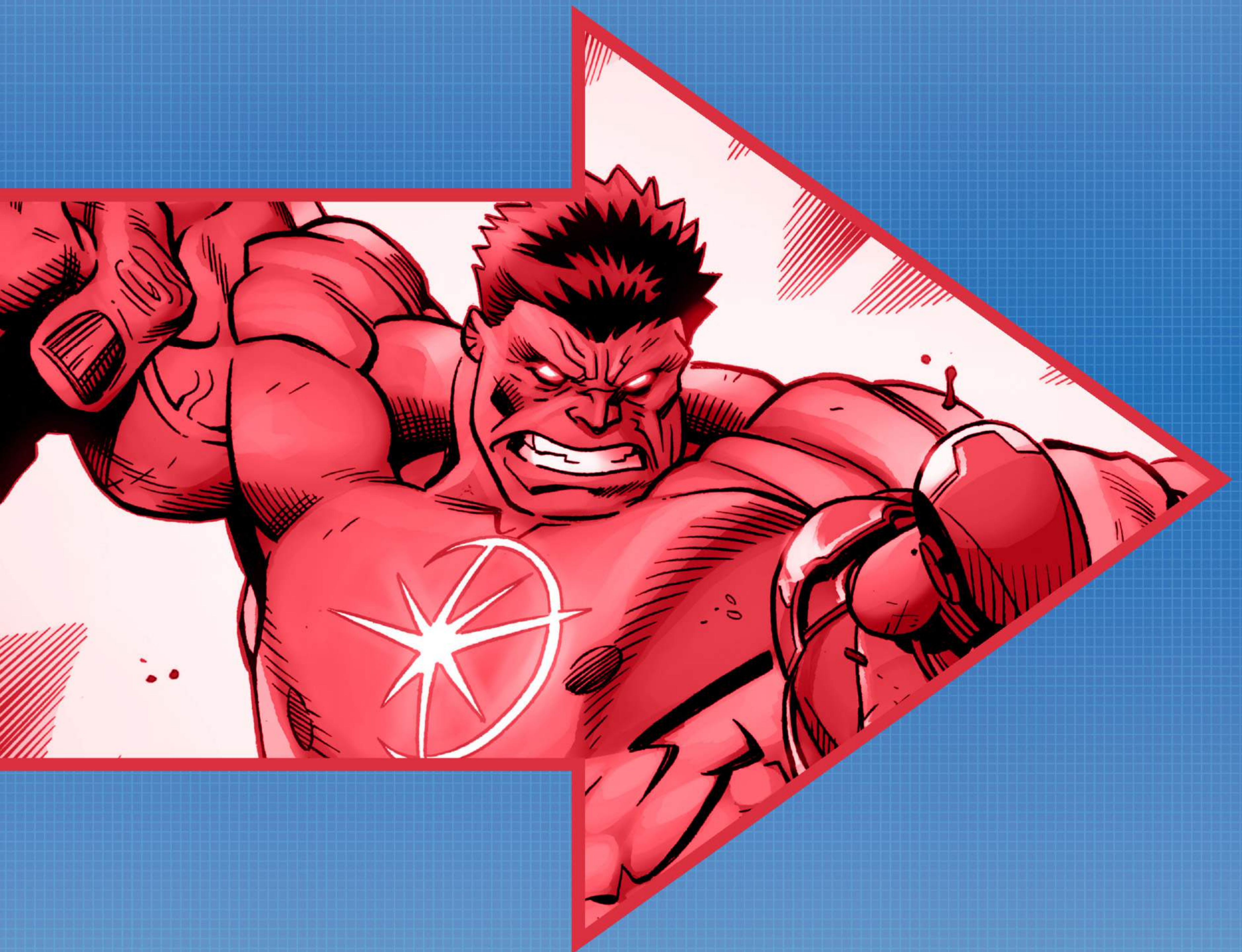
THE AVENGERS



STARBRAND
REBORN

ON A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, A DARK CELESTIAL INVASION LED IRON MAN, THOR AND CAPTAIN AMERICA TO RE-FORM THE AVENGERS, ADDING BLACK PANTHER, CAPTAIN MARVEL, SHE-HULK AND GHOST RIDER TO THEIR RANKS.

SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME, THE PLANETARY DEFENSE MECHANISM KNOWN AS THE STARBRAND HAS BEEN WIELDED BY A VARIETY OF PEOPLE, GRANTING THEM VIRTUALLY INFINITE POWER. OVER THE YEARS, THE STARBRAND MANIFESTED IN SEVERAL HOSTS, AND THE FIRST WALKED THE EARTH OVER ONE MILLION YEARS AGO...



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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES **THE AVENGERS** STARBRAND REBORN

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FOUR BILLION YEARS AGO.

THE GREATEST MAN I'VE
EVER KNOWN NEVER
WAVERED IN HIS BELIEF THAT
ALL LIFE IS *PRECIOUS*.

EVEN AS THE LIFE AROUND HIM
FOUGHT SO VEHEMENTLY TO
PROVE IT WAS ANYTHING BUT.

I OFTEN WONDER IF HE MIGHT'VE
FACED DOUBTS HAD HE BEEN
FORCED TO LOOK UPON ALL I'VE
SEEN SINCE I KNEW HIM.

ALL THE WAY BACK
TO THIS WORLD'S
WRETCHED *BEGINNING*.

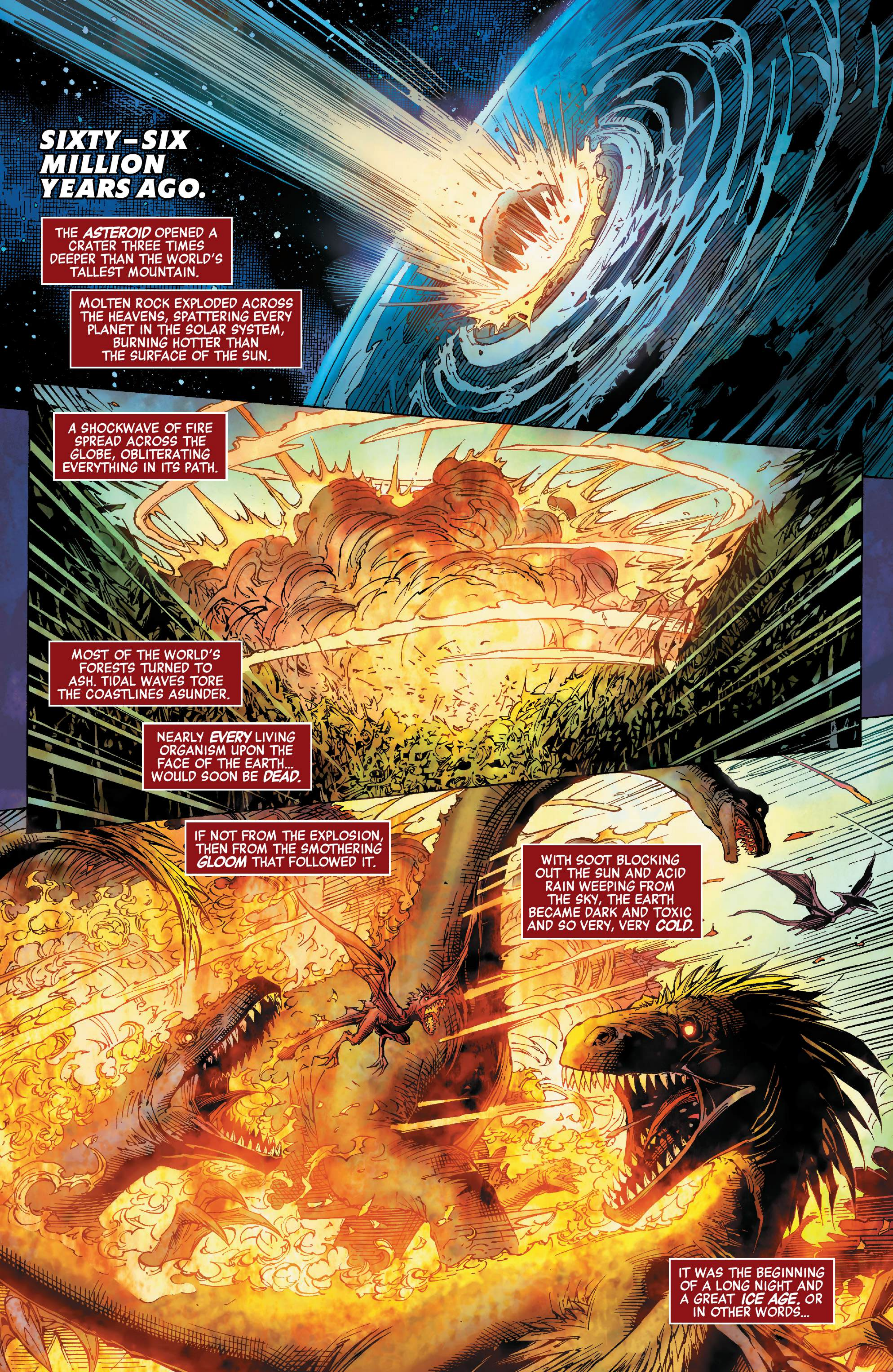
LIFE AS WE KNOW IT ON EARTH
IS THE RESULT OF A DISEASED
CELESTIAL VOMITING ITS LIQUEFIED
SPACE INNARDS ONTO OUR
PLANET'S PRIMORDIAL SHORES.

WE ARE THE PRODUCT
OF AN UNREMARKABLE
WORLD THAT BY
CHANCE BECAME
REMARKABLY INFECTED.

AND IT WAS ONLY AFTER
MILLIONS OF YEARS OF
SERVING AS A FESTERING
BREEDING GROUND FOR
UNCHECKED COSMIC CANCER
THAT THE EARTH DECIDED
TO FINALLY SHOW US...

...ITS LEGION
OF SQUIRMING
DEFORMITIES...

...*EXACTLY* WHAT IT
THOUGHT ABOUT
THE *PRECIOUSNESS*
OF OUR LIVES.



SIXTY-SIX MILLION YEARS AGO.

THE *ASTEROID* OPENED A CRATER THREE TIMES DEEPER THAN THE WORLD'S TALLEST MOUNTAIN.

MOLTEN ROCK EXPLODED ACROSS THE HEAVENS, SPATTERING EVERY PLANET IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM, BURNING HOTTER THAN THE SURFACE OF THE SUN.

A SHOCKWAVE OF FIRE SPREAD ACROSS THE GLOBE, OBLITERATING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH.

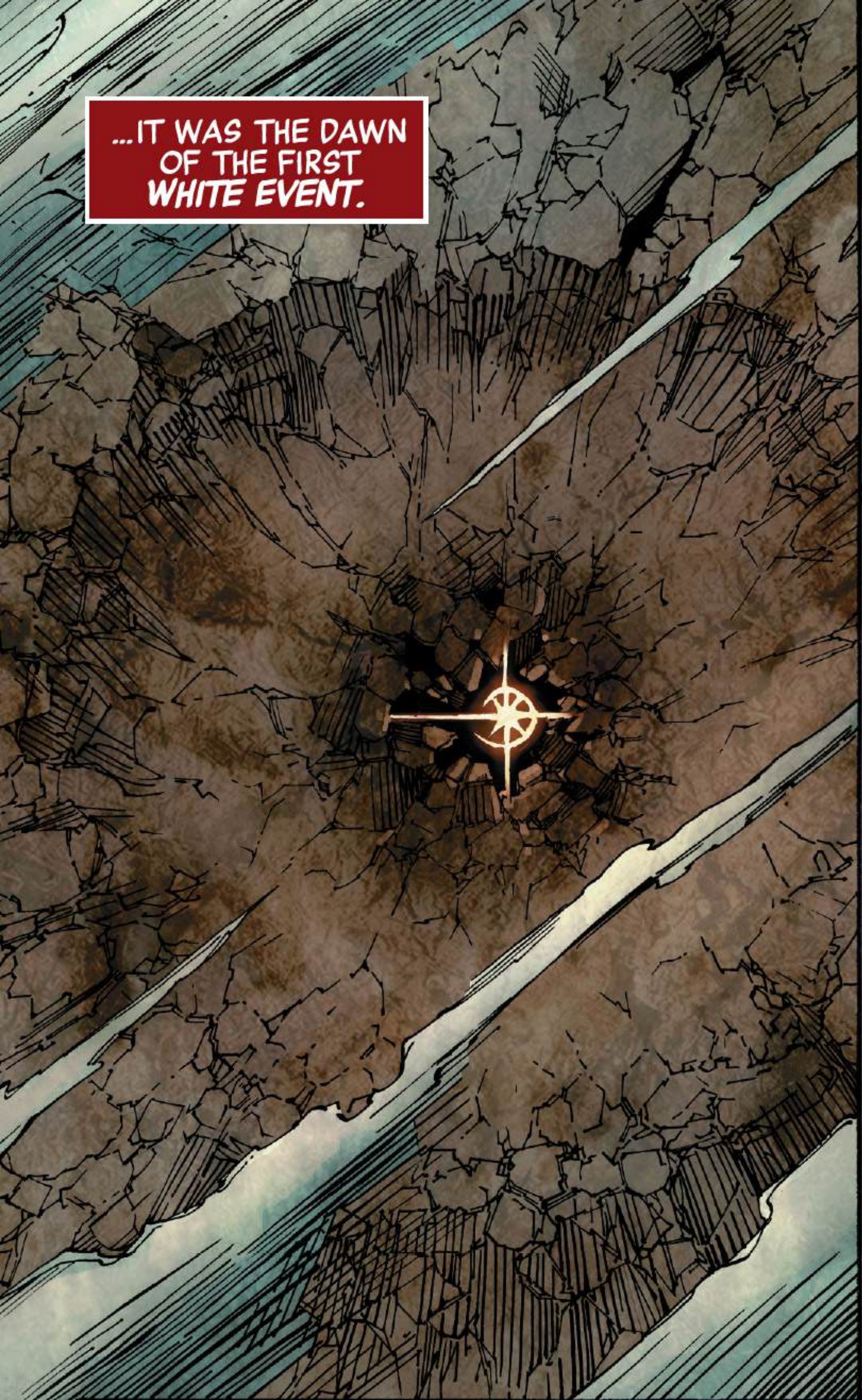
MOST OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS TURNED TO ASH. TIDAL WAVES TORE THE COASTLINES ASUNDER.

NEARLY *EVERY* LIVING ORGANISM UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH... WOULD SOON BE *DEAD*.

IF NOT FROM THE EXPLOSION, THEN FROM THE SMOTHERING *GLOOM* THAT FOLLOWED IT.

WITH SOOT BLOCKING OUT THE SUN AND ACID RAIN WEEPING FROM THE SKY, THE EARTH BECAME DARK AND TOXIC AND SO VERY, VERY *COLD*.

IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A LONG NIGHT AND A GREAT *ICE AGE*. OR IN OTHER WORDS...



...IT WAS THE DAWN
OF THE FIRST
WHITE EVENT.



THE ASTEROID HAD BEEN
NO ACCIDENT. THE
PLANET HAD DRAWN IT
FROM THE DEPTHS OF
SPACE. USED IT TO CRACK
OPEN THE SUPERFLOW.

A MASS SACRIFICE
TO AWAKEN THE
EARTH'S POWER TO
PROTECT ITSELF.



AGAINST ITS ENEMIES
FROM BEYOND THE
STARS. AGAINST THE
PLANET'S OWN
CELESTIAL INFECTION.

ALL THIS WEAPON FROM
BEYOND THE STARS
WOULD REQUIRE...WAS
A *HOST*.



THUS WAS BORN THE
EARTH'S FIRST COSMICALLY
EMPOWERED PROTECTOR.

THE MIGHTIEST
HERO OF THE
ANCIENT AGE.

THE
STARBRAND.



BUT ALL AGES
EVENTUALLY COME
TO AN END.

**SIXTY-FIVE MILLION
YEARS LATER.**

I CAN'T
REMEMBER. DID WE
GIVE THESE A NAME?
THESE BULBS THAT'RE
THE COLOR OF
FIRE?

YOU MEAN
THE ONES THAT TURN
YOUR NOSE INTO A MUDDY
SPRING WHEN YOU SMELL
THEM TOO HARD? PRETTY
SURE WE NAMED THEM
MUD BULBS.

RIGHT. NOT
OUR BEST WORK.
HOW DO WE FEEL
ABOUT THE MUD
BULBS **WILTING?**

I FEEL LIKE A BIG BAG OF THOSE
THINGS CHOPPED UP WOULD SURE
COME IN HANDY IF WE EVER GET
ANOTHER TUSK DOG SNIFFING
AROUND THE CANYON.

THERE YOU GO
AGAIN, VNN, FINDING
A USE FOR EVERYTHING
IN THIS GARDEN.

EVEN A
CAVEMAN
LIKE ME.

I THINK
THE SWEET TREES
ARE BLOCKING THEIR
SKY WATER. WE'LL NEED
ANOTHER RIVER DITCH.
JUST TELL ME
WHERE TO DIG.

WE COULD DIVERT SOME OF THE
RUNOFF FROM THE FALL CAVE,
DOWN THROUGH THE
HONEY GROVES.

THE FALL CAVE?
I THOUGHT WE SAID
WE'D NEVER GO NEAR
THAT SAPPING PLACE
AGAIN AFTER WHAT
I HEARD THE
LAST TIME.

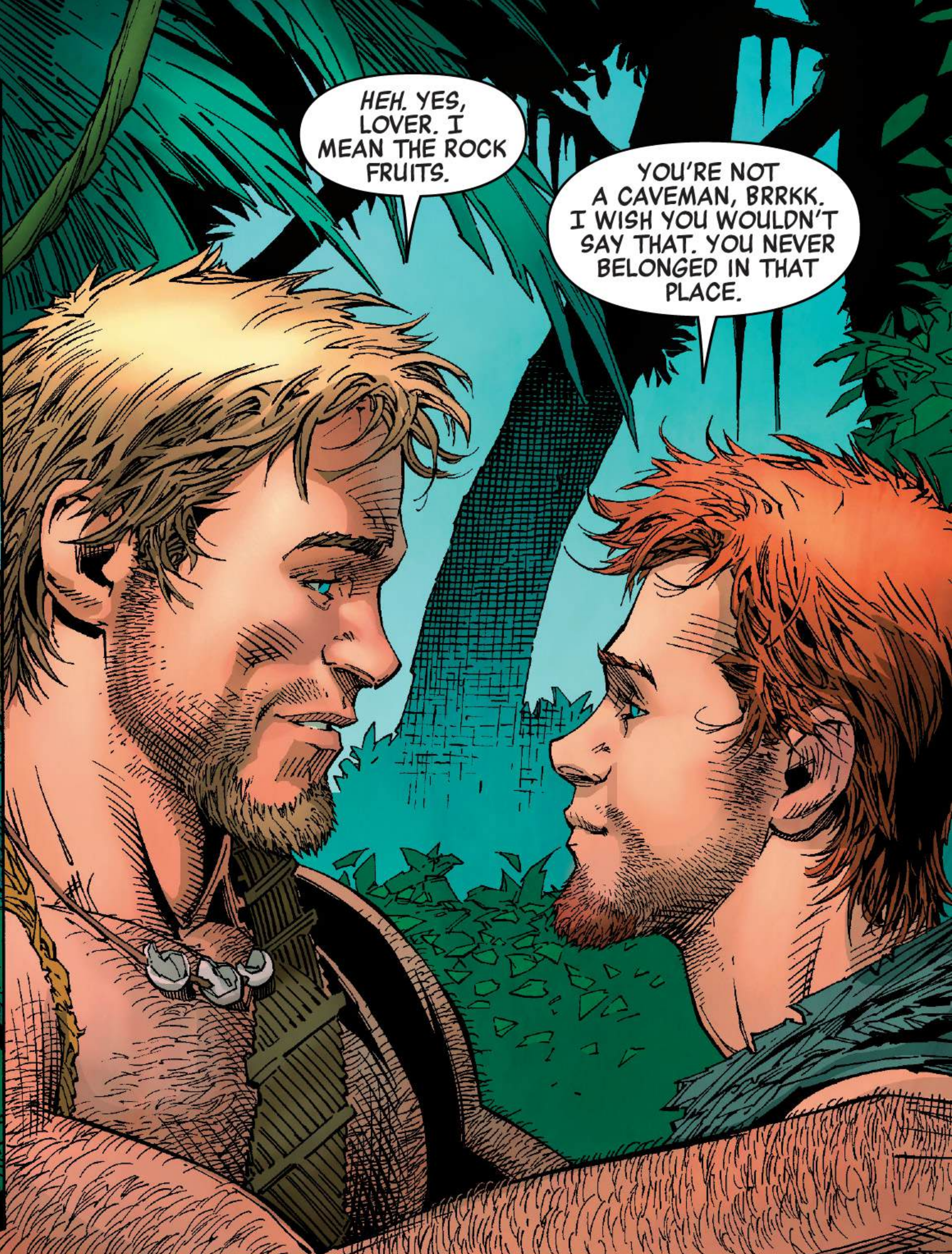
YOU SAID,
BRRKK. NOT **WE**
SAID. YOU WANNA
SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS
MUD BULBS OR
NOT?



ALL LIFE IS PRECIOUS, VNN. BUT THERE'S STILL ONE THING IN THIS GARDEN I CARE MORE ABOUT THAN EVERYTHING ELSE PUT TOGETHER.

AND IT SURE AS SAP DOESN'T GROW OUT OF THE GROUND.

YOU MEAN THE ROCK FRUITS?



HEH. YES, LOVER. I MEAN THE ROCK FRUITS.

YOU'RE NOT A CAVEMAN, BRRKK. I WISH YOU WOULDN'T SAY THAT. YOU NEVER BELONGED IN THAT PLACE.



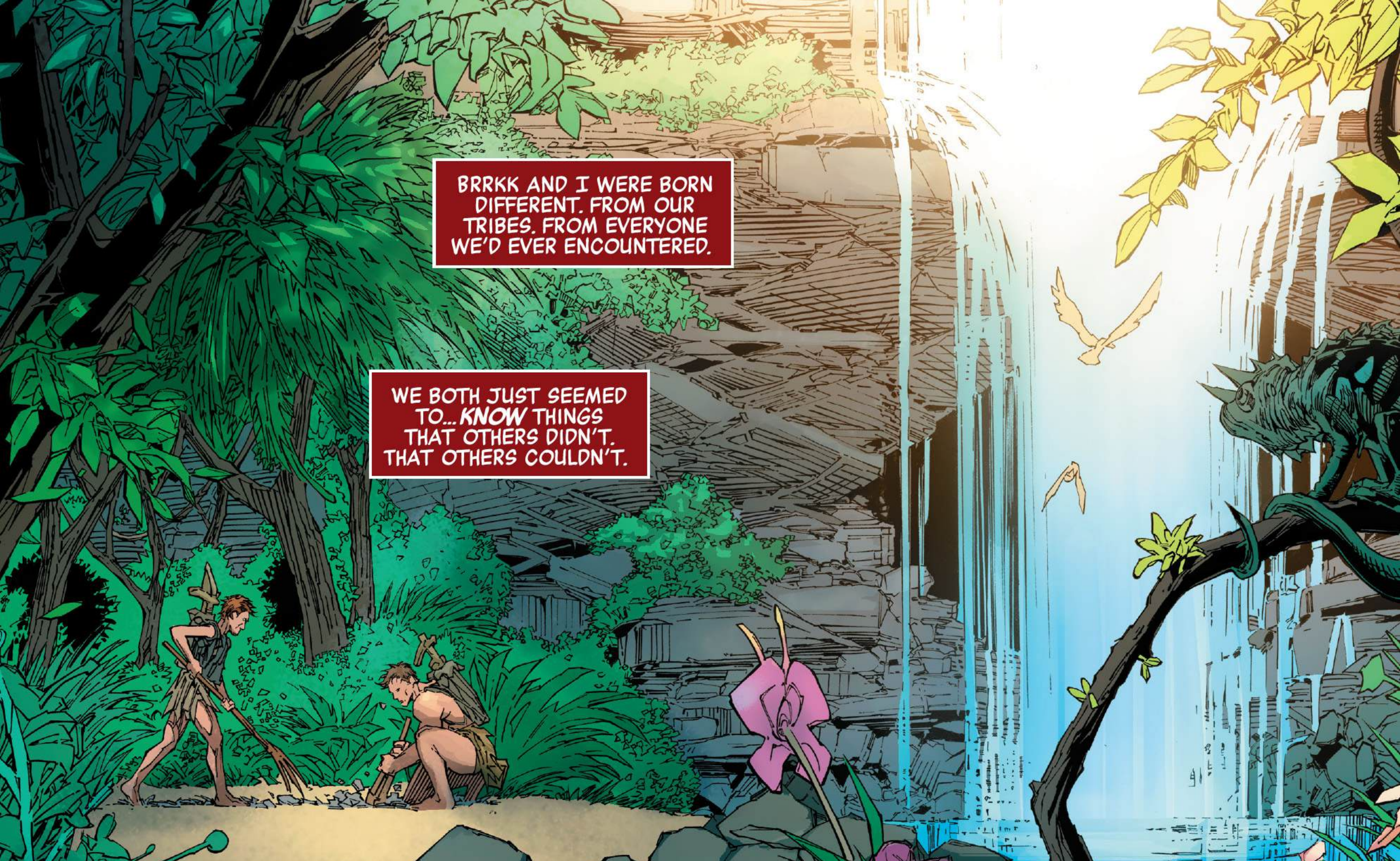
YOU'RE RIGHT. I BELONG HERE. WHERE I CAN THANK YOU EVERY DAY FOR RESCUING ME.

NOW LET'S GO RESCUE SOME MUD BULBS.



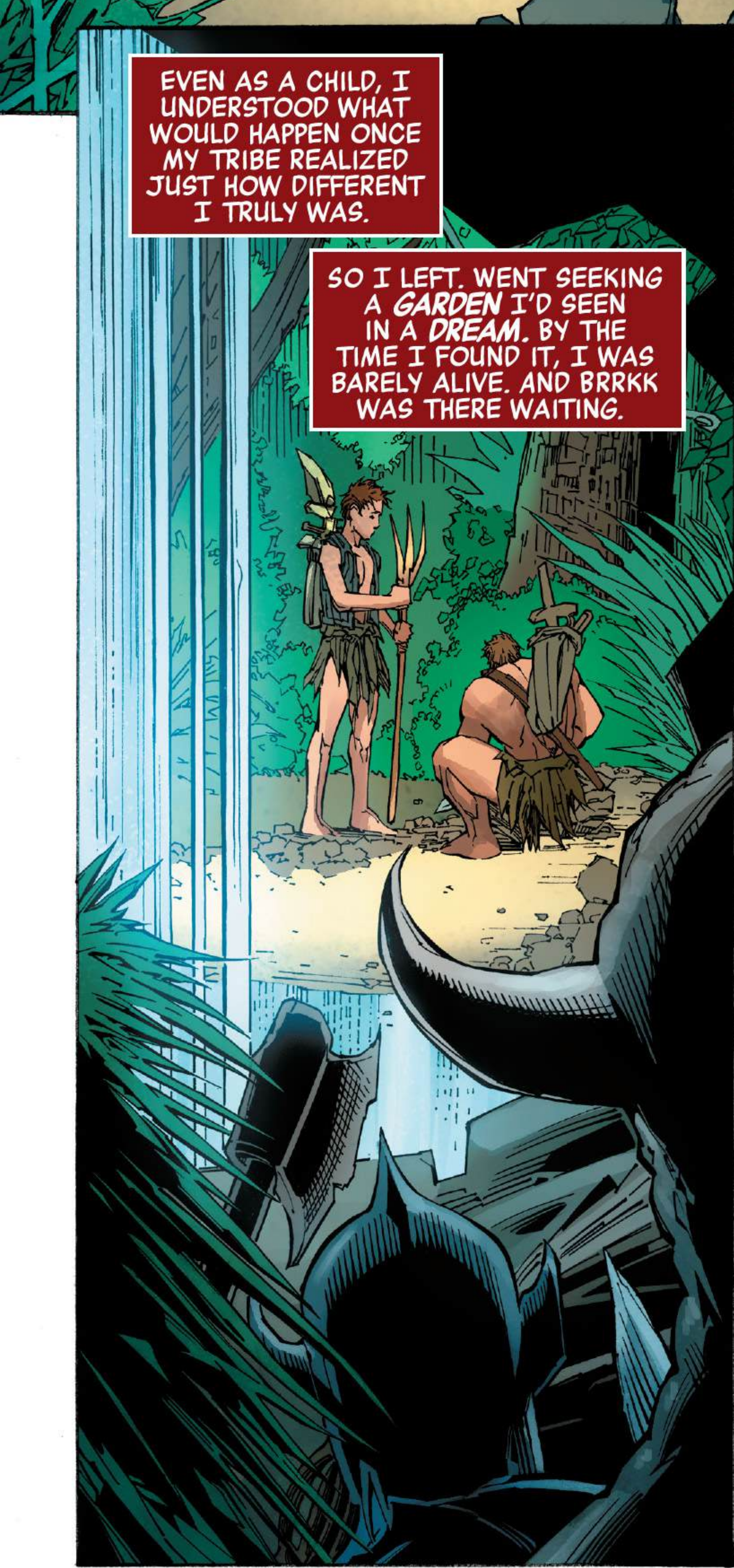
I RESCUED HIM. HE MEANT IT EVERY TIME HE SAID THAT.

WHICH MADE ME LOVE HIM ALL THE MORE.



BRRKK AND I WERE BORN DIFFERENT. FROM OUR TRIBES. FROM EVERYONE WE'D EVER ENCOUNTERED.

WE BOTH JUST SEEMED TO...*KNOW* THINGS THAT OTHERS DIDN'T. THAT OTHERS COULDN'T.



EVEN AS A CHILD, I UNDERSTOOD WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ONCE MY TRIBE REALIZED JUST HOW DIFFERENT I TRULY WAS.

SO I LEFT. WENT SEEKING A *GARDEN* I'D SEEN IN A *DREAM*. BY THE TIME I FOUND IT, I WAS BARELY ALIVE. AND BRRKK WAS THERE WAITING.



I'D SAVED HIM, HE SAID, AS HE NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH. I'D SAVED HIM FROM GOING MAD, ALONE IN PARADISE.

VNN.
GET BEHIND ME.

WHAT?

BUT IT TURNS OUT THERE ARE WORSE FATES IN THE WORLD THAN MERE MADNESS.

WE FOUND THE DAMN THING AT LAST.

TAKE THE GARDEN.

KILL THE MAMMALS.

DEVIANTS!

MUTATED MONSTERS WHO LIVE DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH. MORE ADVANCED THAN WE COULD IMAGINE. MORE DESTRUCTIVE TOO.

SUPPOSEDLY SPAWNED BY GODS FROM THE STARS. THEY'D BEEN SNOOPING AROUND AND SEARCHING FOR OUR GARDEN EVER SINCE WE FIRST DISCOVERED IT.

I TOLD YOU I HEARD THEM IN THE FALL CAVE!

WHY? WHY DO THEY WANT OUR GARDEN?

GET DOWN!

HHRRGH!

THE GARDEN WAS A PLACE OF PEACE, PROTECTING BRRKK AND ME FROM THE WORLD BEYOND JUST AS WE PROTECTED IT.

GAAGH!

UUUGH!

THE GARDEN WAS MAGIC AND WONDER IN A STARK AND SAVAGE WORLD.

SO OF COURSE I'D ALWAYS KNOWN...

HRR! THE GARDEN IS OURS NOW, PUNY MAMMAL! AND SO IS ITS SECRET POW--

RRRRRGGGH!!!

...THAT IT WAS TOO GOOD TO LAST.



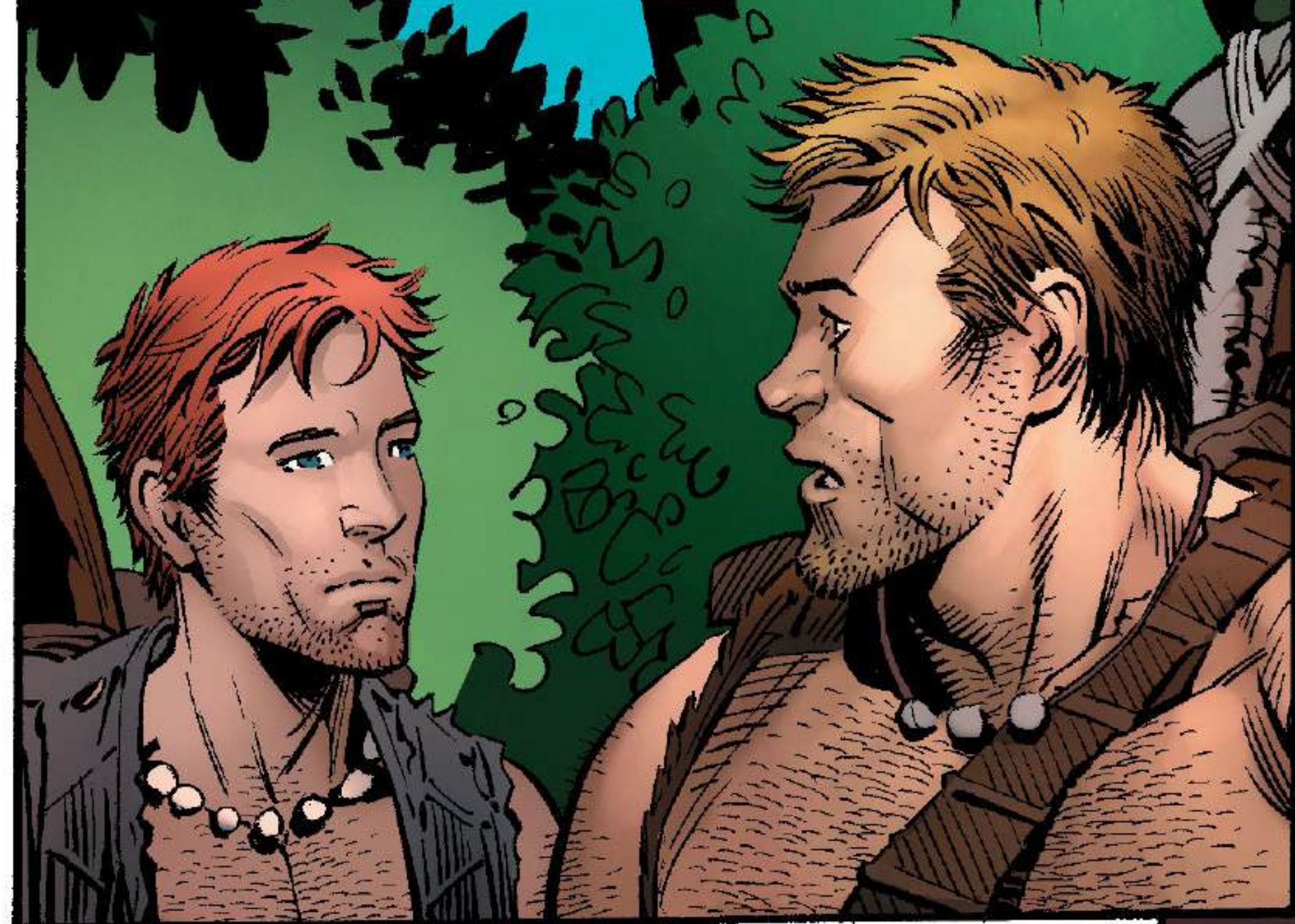
THE DEVIANTS HAD FOUND US.
FOUND A WAY INTO THE GARDEN.
WE TURNED THEM AWAY THIS
TIME. BRRKK TURNED THEM AWAY.

BUT WE KNEW
THEY'D BE BACK.

WE WERE TWO AND THEY WERE MANY.
THEY HAD WEAPONS FAR BEYOND OUR OWN.
THEY HAD NO QUALMS ABOUT KILLING.

I HAD NEVER FELLED A LIVING
CREATURE, NOT EVEN TO FEED
MYSELF WHILE STARVING.

WE HAD TO LEAVE
THE GARDEN. WE BOTH
KNEW THAT. BUT NEITHER
OF US COULD BRING
OURSELVES TO SAY IT.



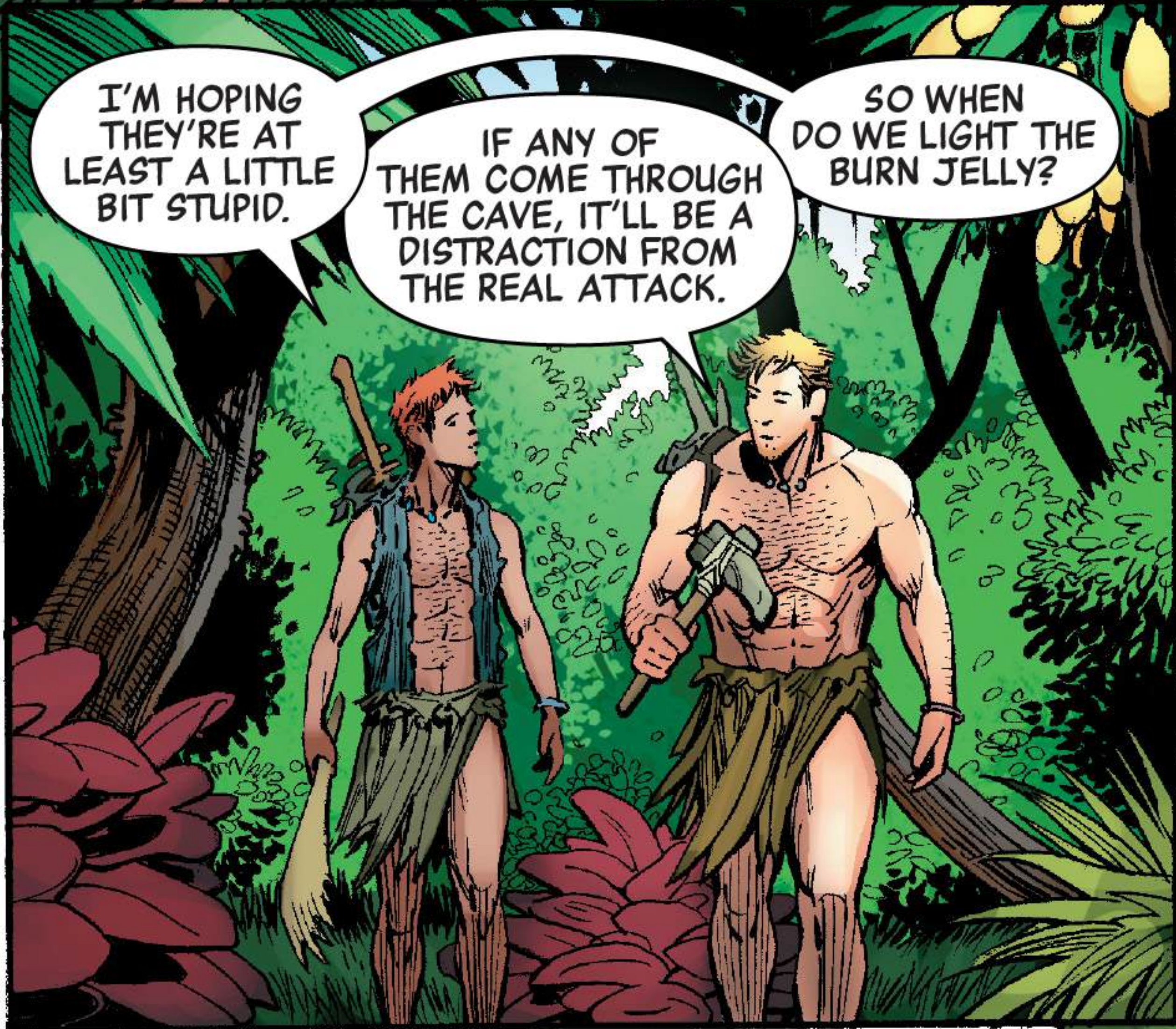
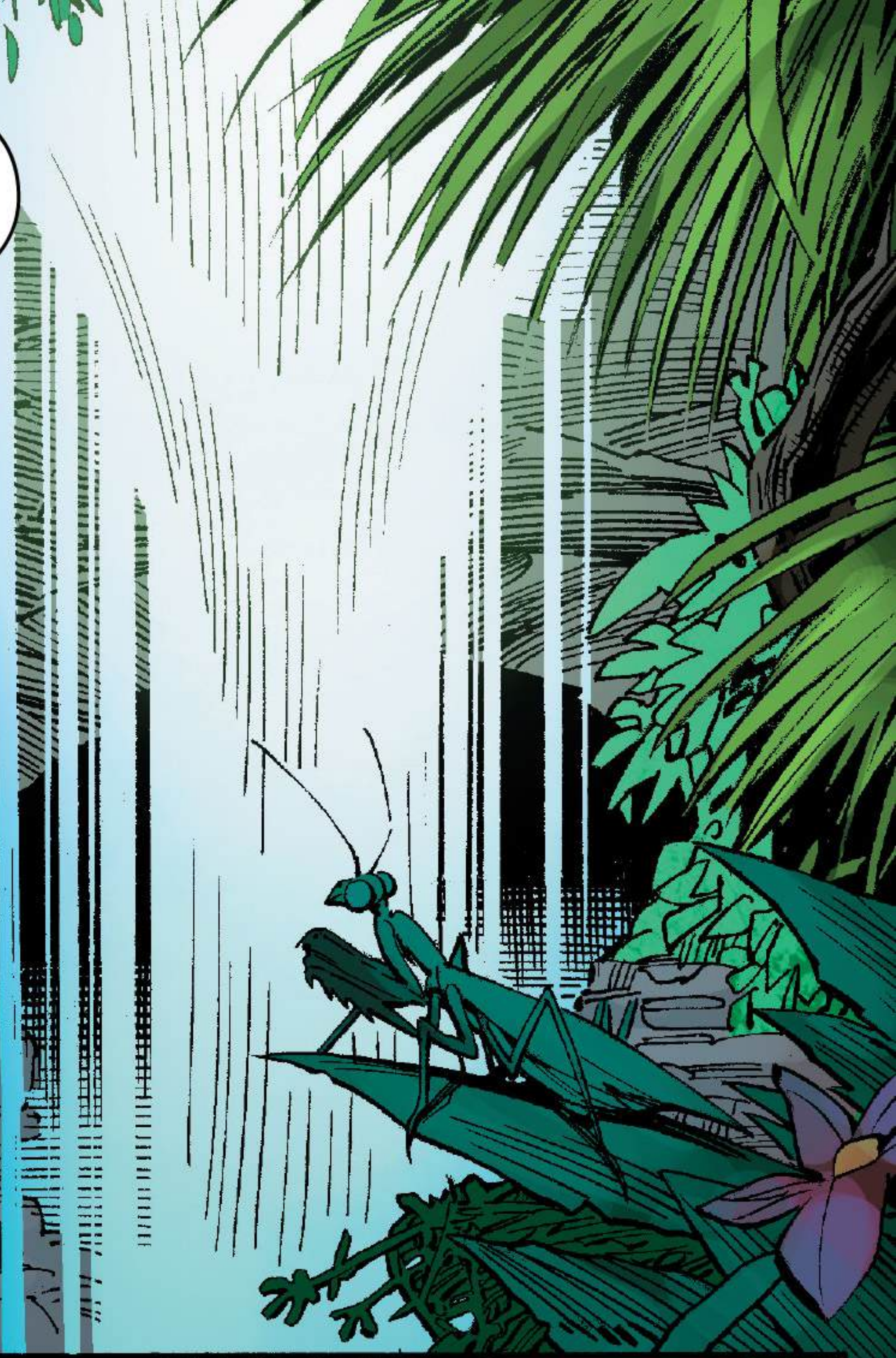
WE KNEW WHAT WAS OUTSIDE
THE GARDEN. IT WASN'T A
WORLD FOR US. WE KNEW
WHAT WE WERE MADE FOR.

AND WE KNEW
WHAT IT WAS
WORTH.





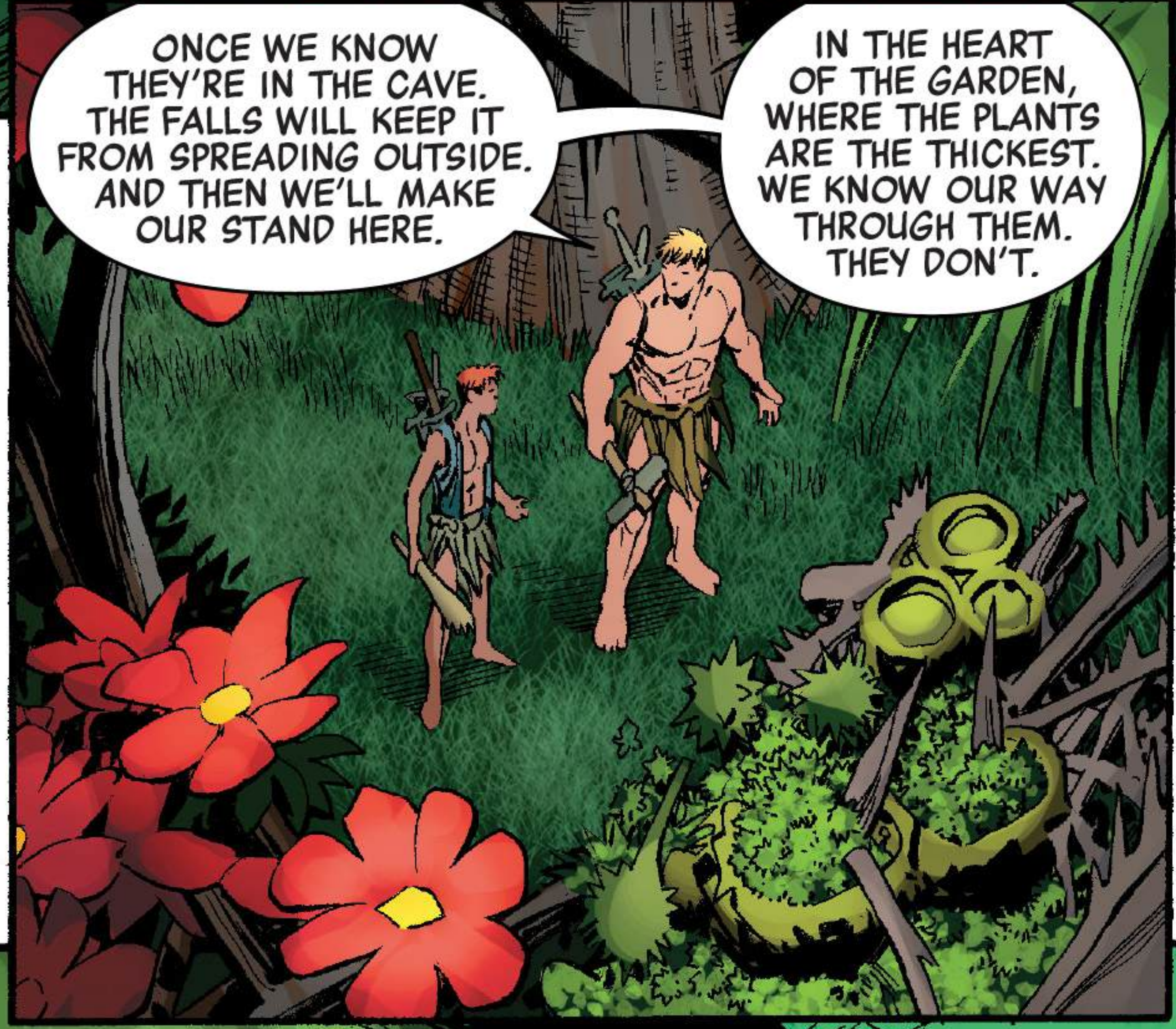
THEY WON'T TRY TO SNEAK IN THE SAME WAY. THEY'RE NOT STUPID.



I'M HOPING THEY'RE AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT STUPID.

IF ANY OF THEM COME THROUGH THE CAVE, IT'LL BE A DISTRACTION FROM THE REAL ATTACK.

SO WHEN DO WE LIGHT THE BURN JELLY?



ONCE WE KNOW THEY'RE IN THE CAVE. THE FALLS WILL KEEP IT FROM SPREADING OUTSIDE. AND THEN WE'LL MAKE OUR STAND HERE.

IN THE HEART OF THE GARDEN, WHERE THE PLANTS ARE THE THICKEST. WE KNOW OUR WAY THROUGH THEM. THEY DON'T.



THE GARDEN WILL HELP US DEFEND IT. THAT'S WHY IT CALLED US HERE THROUGH OUR DREAMS.

I KNOW THAT'S TRUE. I KNOW IT WITH ALL MY HEART.

THEN KNOW THIS TOO, VNN--



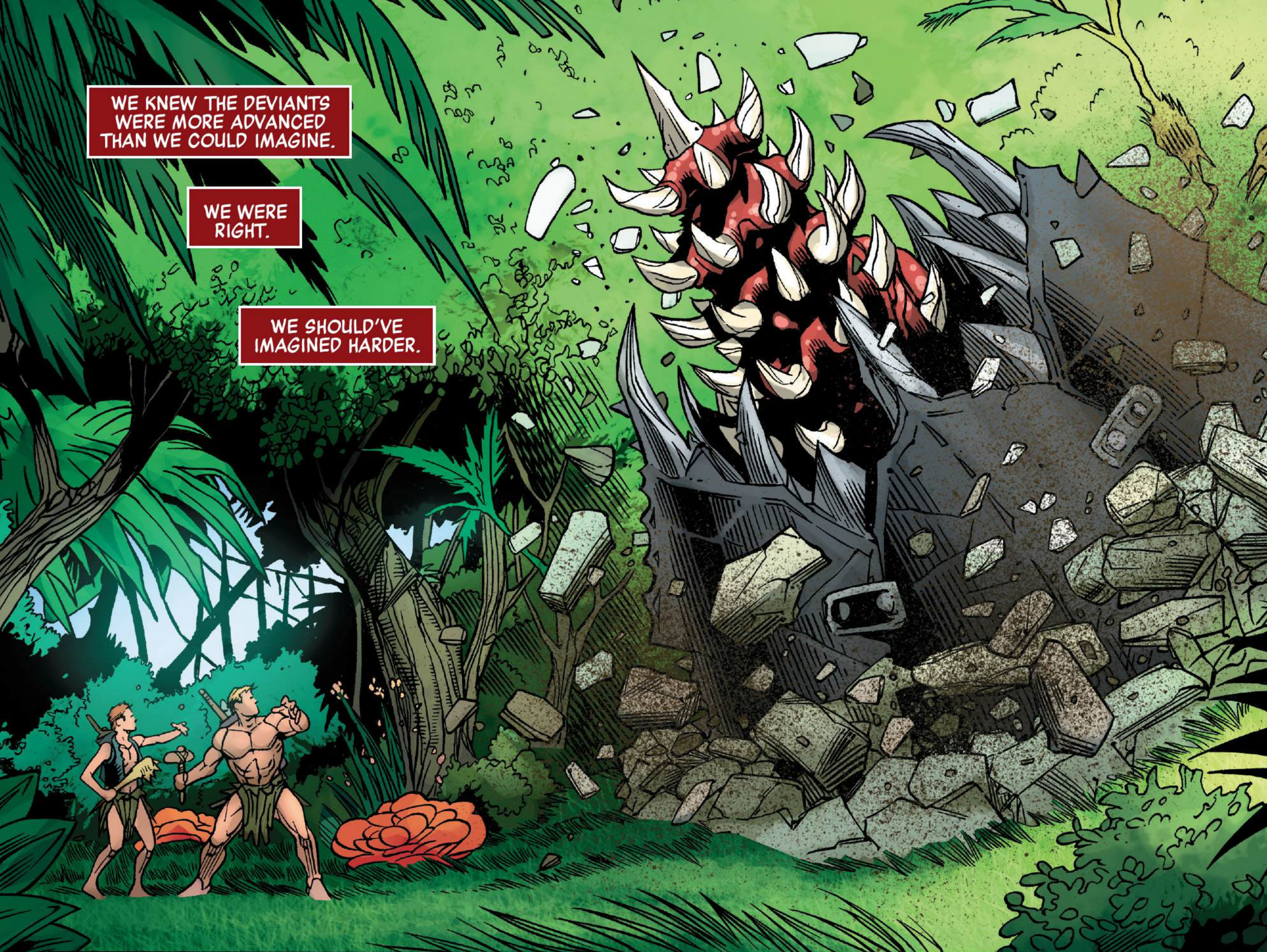
I LOVE YOU. AND I WILL FIGHT EVERY DEVIANT WHO CRAWLS OUT OF THE GROUND IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO--

BRRKK... DO YOU FEEL THE GROUND SHAKING?

WE KNEW THE DEVIANTS
WERE MORE ADVANCED
THAN WE COULD IMAGINE.

WE WERE
RIGHT.

WE SHOULD'VE
IMAGINED HARDER.



BUT WE WERE
RIGHT ABOUT
SOMETHING ELSE
AS WELL.

NO!

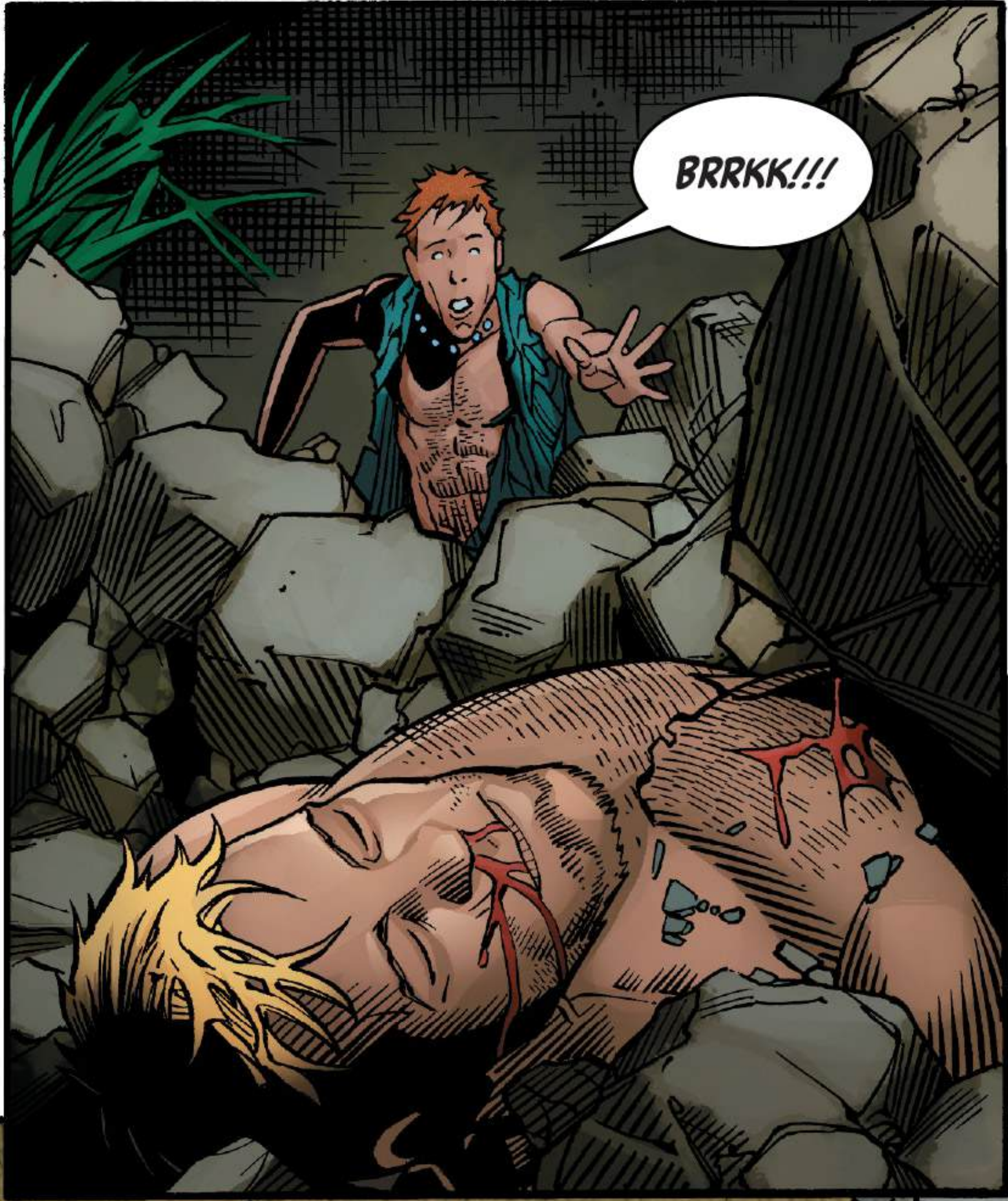
VNN!

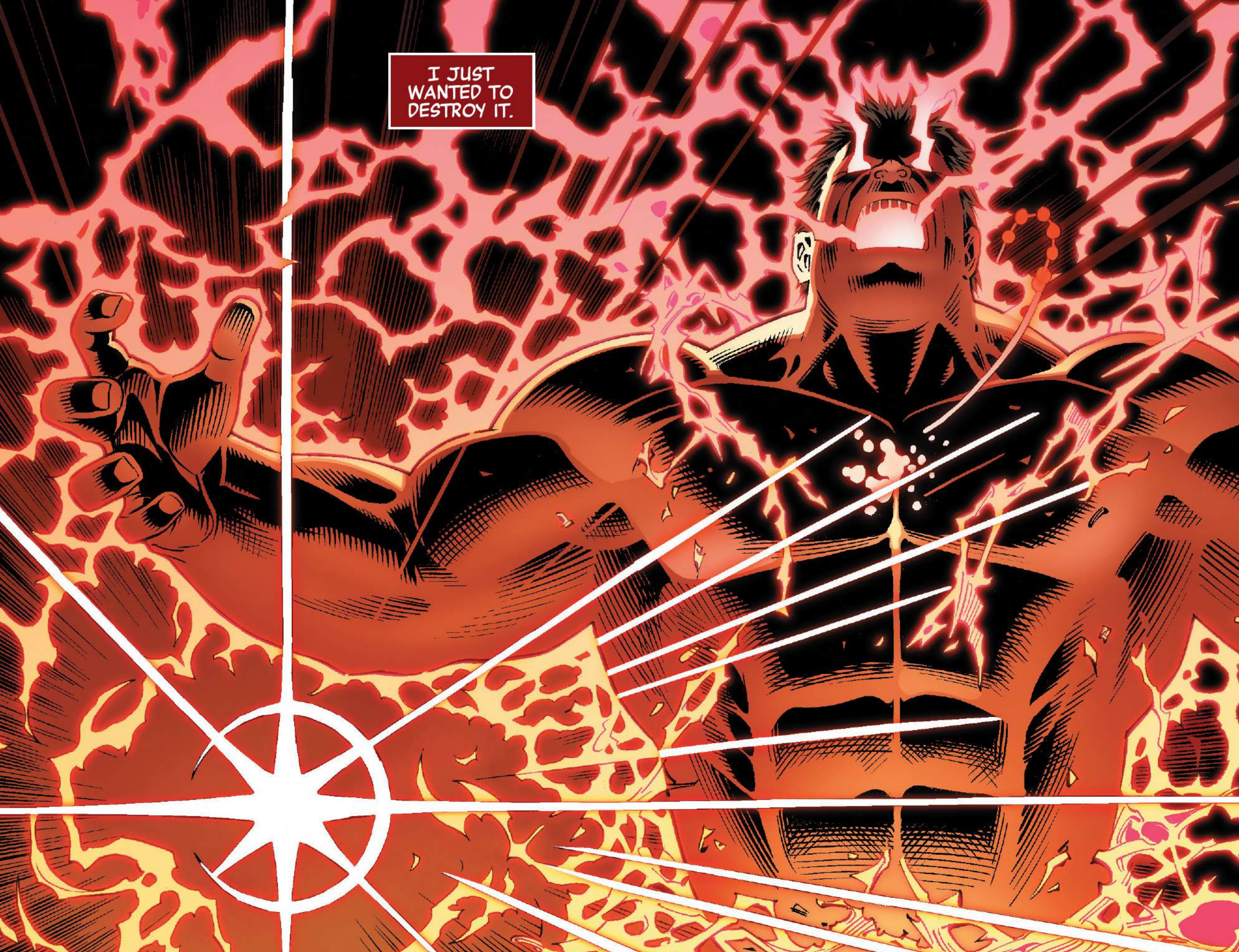


THE GARDEN HAD
CALLED US TO
ITSELF FOR A REASON.
THE SAME REASON
THAT MADE IT SUCH
A SPECIAL PLACE
TO BEGIN WITH.



OUR GARDEN
HAD GROWN FROM
A SECRET.





I JUST
WANTED TO
DESTROY IT.



WE'VE
UNCOVERED THE
POWER SOURCE. NOW
THE GREATEST WEAPON
IN EXISTENCE IS
OURS!

WE'LL USE
IT TO CRUSH
ANYTHING, GOD OR
MAN OR CELESTIAL,
THAT DARES STAND
IN THE WAY OF
THE DEVIANT
EMPI--



RRRRRRGGH!!!

THERE WAS FIRE IN MY VEINS
AND A RAGE AS WIDE AS THE
COSMOS IN MY HEART.

I COULD SEE THE DEVIANTS
DOWN TO THEIR DESPICABLE
ATOMS. COULD HEAR WORLDS
BEING BORN AND CRUMBLING A
TRILLION LIGHT-YEARS AWAY.

I HAD NEVER FELT
SO VERY ALIVE, YET
AT THE SAME TIME...

...SO CERTAIN
THAT MY LIFE AS
I KNEW IT...

...WAS DEAD
AND GONE
FOREVER.



I WAS RIGHT. AND NEVER WAS
I MORE ALONE THAN ONCE
I LEARNED...THAT THERE WERE
OTHERS LIKE ME IN THE WORLD.

MONTHS LATER.
THE SACRED MOUNTAIN
OF THE PANTHER TRIBE.

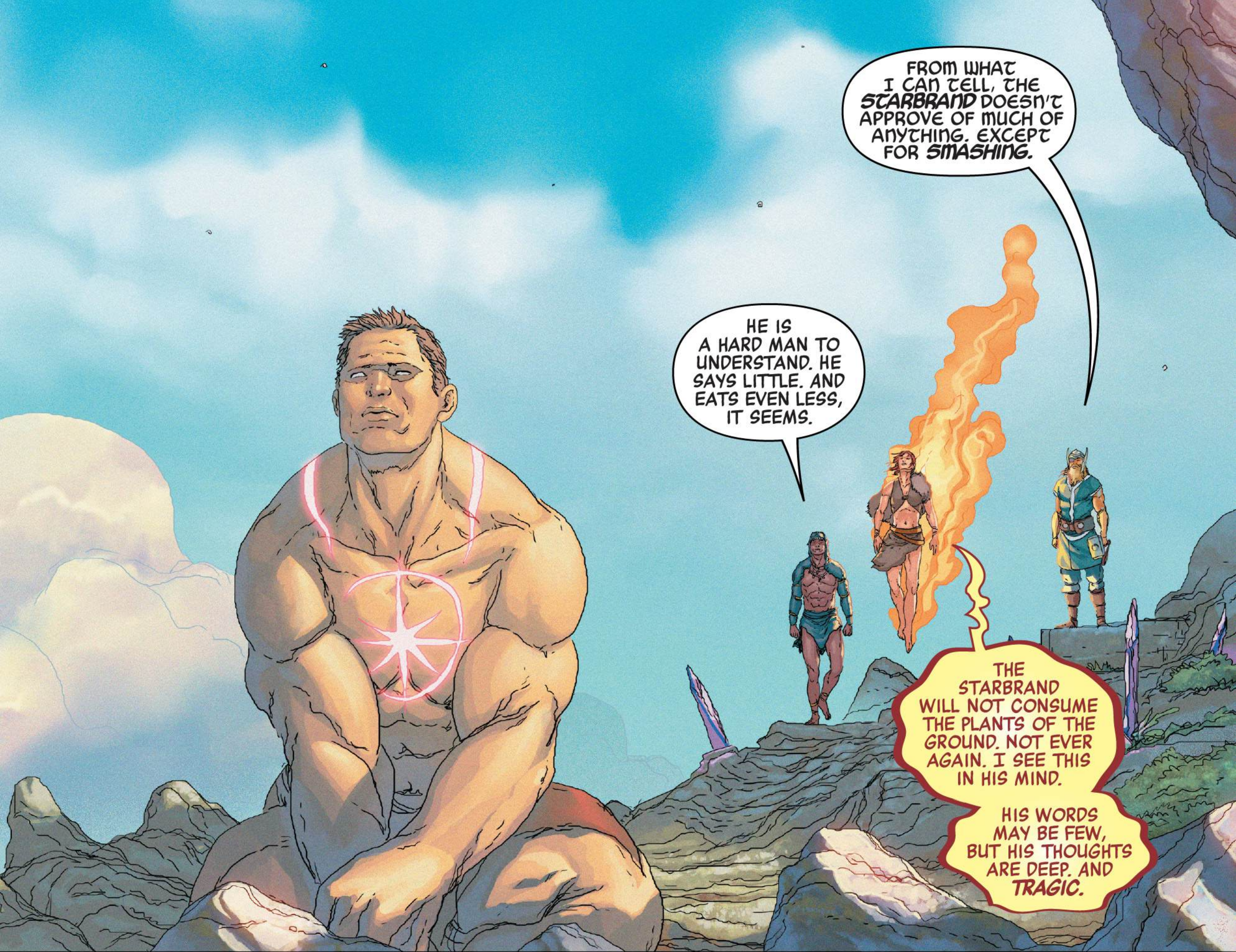
YOU ARE
GUESTS OF THE
PANTHER TRIBE, MY
FRIENDS. PLEASE,
WHATEVER WE
HAVE IS YOURS.

EAT ALL
YOU LIKE. THE
PLANTS OF THE
EARTH PROVIDE US
WITH PLENTY.

HRGH.
RATHER HAVE
ALE AND
MUTTON.

IT SEEMS
YOU ARE NOT ALONE
IN YOUR DISAPPROVAL
OF MY PEOPLE'S
HOSPITALITY,
LORD ODIN.



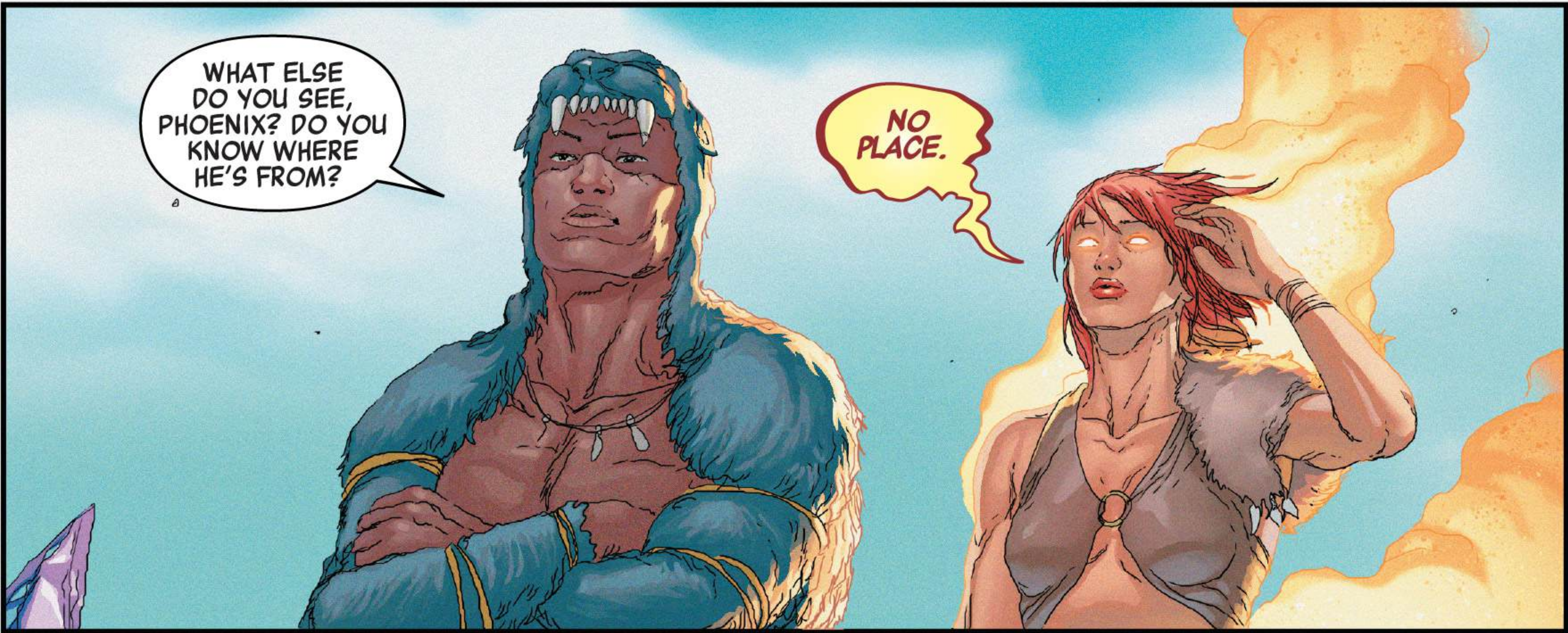


FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, THE **STARBRAND** DOESN'T APPROVE OF MUCH OF ANYTHING. EXCEPT FOR **SMASHING**.

HE IS A HARD MAN TO UNDERSTAND. HE SAYS LITTLE. AND EATS EVEN LESS, IT SEEMS.

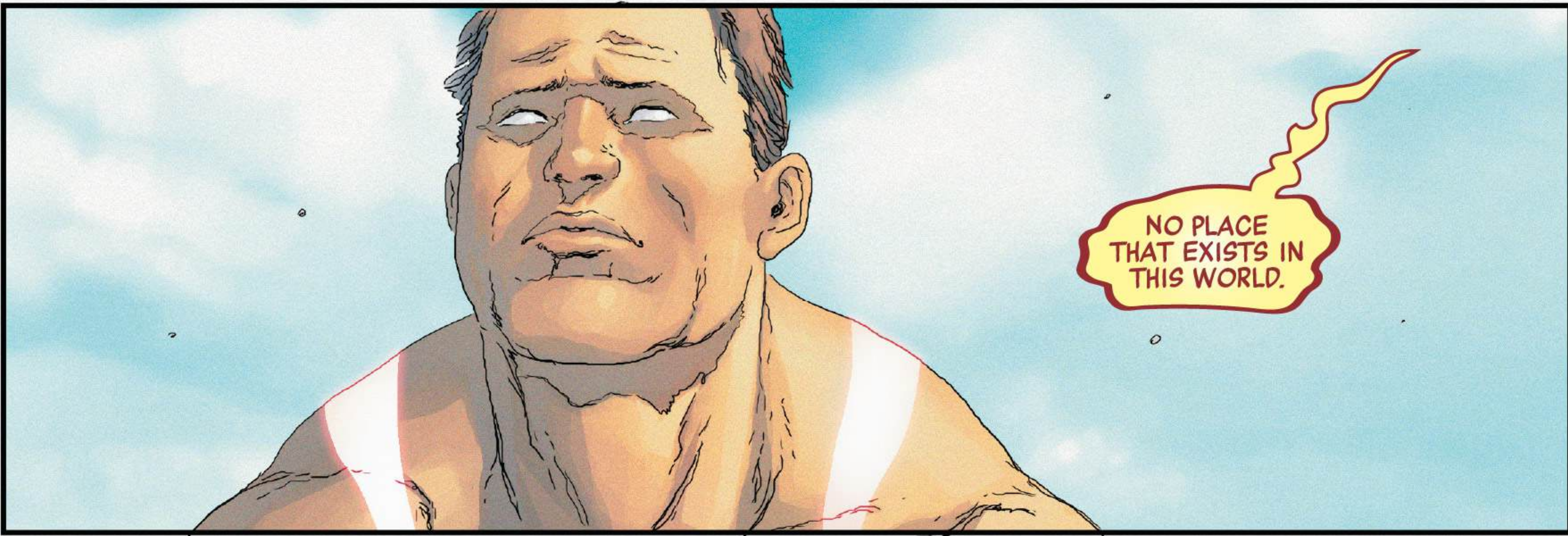
THE **STARBRAND** WILL NOT CONSUME THE PLANTS OF THE GROUND. NOT EVER AGAIN. I SEE THIS IN HIS MIND.

HIS WORDS MAY BE FEW, BUT HIS THOUGHTS ARE DEEP. AND **TRAGIC**.



WHAT ELSE DO YOU SEE, PHOENIX? DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE'S FROM?

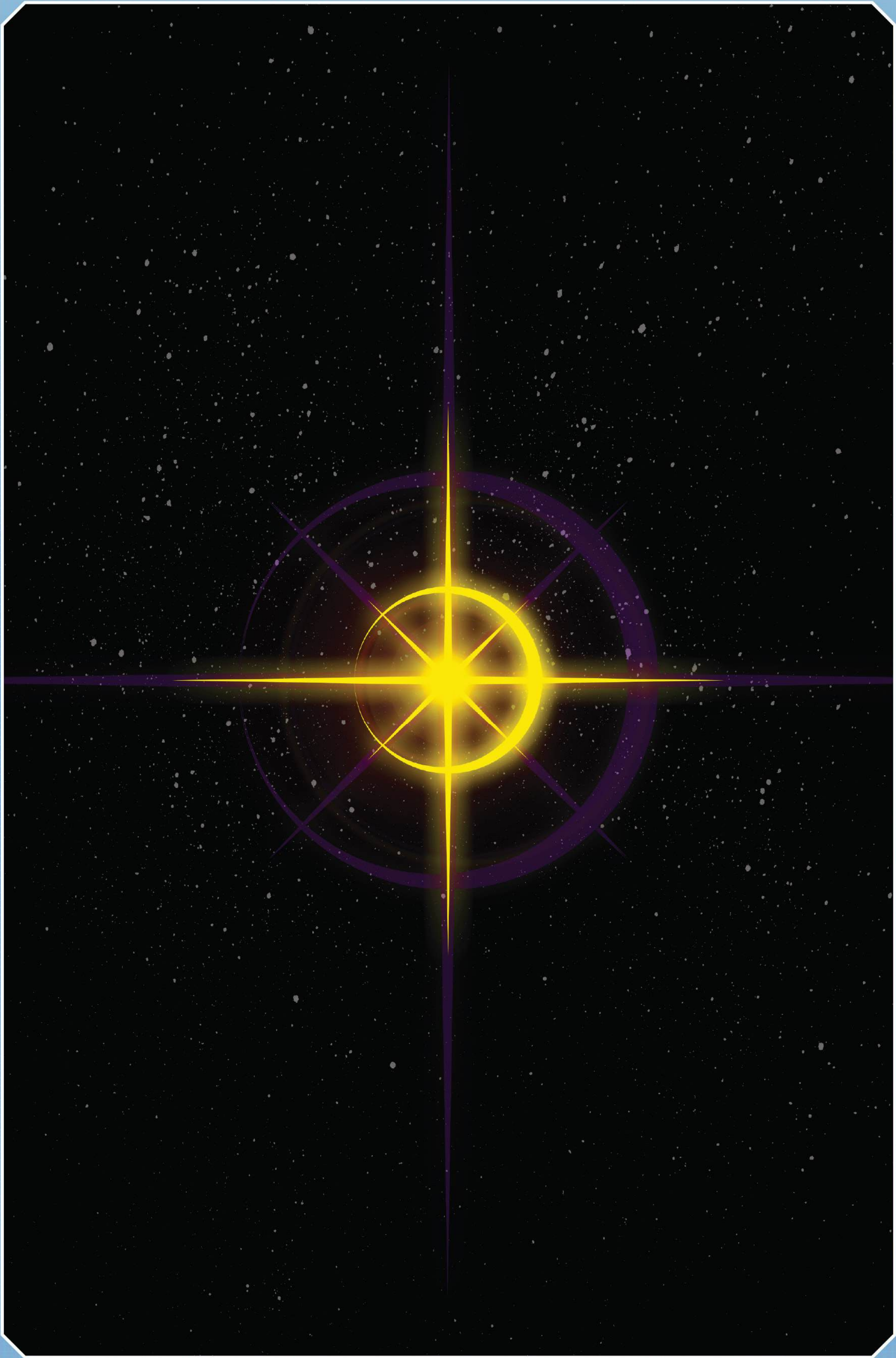
NO PLACE.



NO PLACE THAT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD.

"NOT
ANYMORE."





27 STARBRAND VARIANT

27 **STARBRAND REBORN PART 1**
RIOT IN THE PRISON GALAXY



SIX DAYS AGO.
SHI'AR-CONTROLLED SPACE.
OUTSKIRTS OF THE
RAVENSTARR GALAXY.
WATCHROID DELTA.

REPORT.

SIR, THIRTEEN
STARSECS AGO, A
SIGNIFICANT **EXPLOSIVE**
INCIDENT OCCURRED
INSIDE THE PRISON.

ARE THE
CONTAINMENT
SHIELDS STILL
IN PLACE?

YES,
MAJESTOR
GLADIATOR, SIR.
OUR SHIELDS WERE
BUILT TO WITHSTAND
A **PHOENIX-LEVEL**
EVENT.

SO THE
PRISONERS BUILT
A **BOMB**. THEY'VE BUILT
BOMBS BEFORE TO BLOW
EACH OTHER INTO SPACE
GRISTLE. WHY DO I CARE?
WHY AM I HERE?

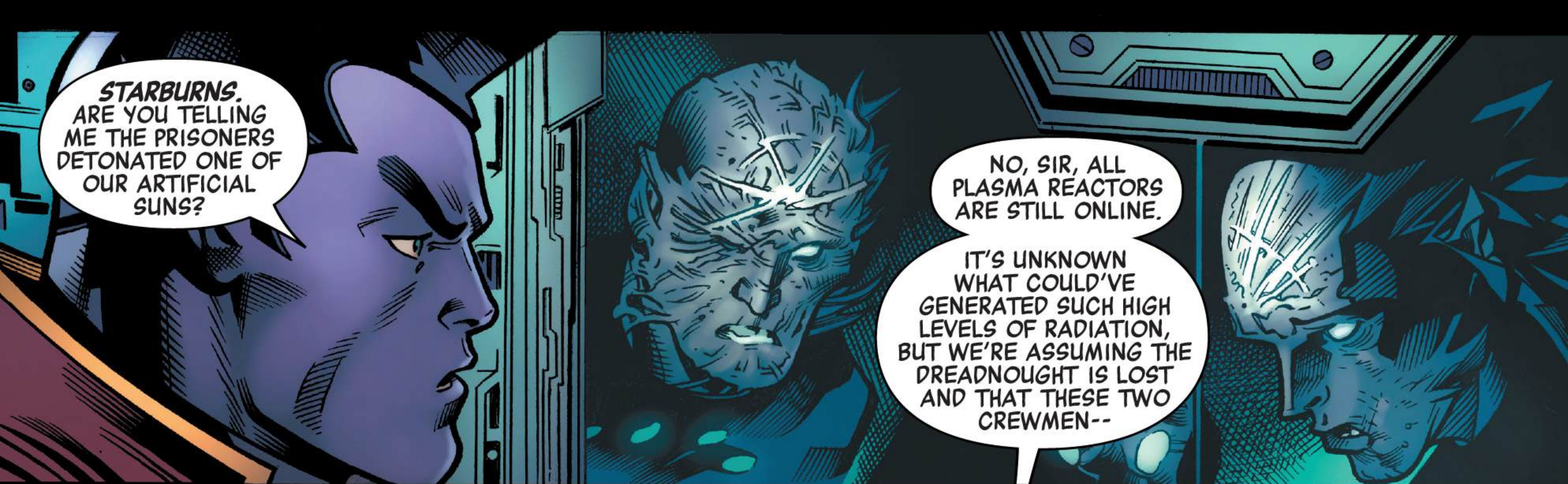
SIR, A
DREADNOUGHT
SHIP WAS DISPATCHED
TO INVESTIGATE THE
EXPLOSION. WE LOST
COMMS WITH THEM THE
MOMENT THEY
REACHED GROUND
ZERO.

SOON AFTER,
A LONE **ESCAPE**
POD CAME CRASHING
BACK INTO THE GATE
WITH TWO CREWMEN
ABOARD.

AND?
HAVE
THEY SAID
ANYTHING
YET?

ONLY IF
YOU COUNT
SCREAMS,
SIR.

EEEEEEIIRRRGGGHHH!!!



STARBURNS.
ARE YOU TELLING
ME THE PRISONERS
DETONATED ONE OF
OUR ARTIFICIAL
SUNS?

NO, SIR, ALL
PLASMA REACTORS
ARE STILL ONLINE.

IT'S UNKNOWN
WHAT COULD'VE
GENERATED SUCH HIGH
LEVELS OF RADIATION,
BUT WE'RE ASSUMING THE
DREADNOUGHT IS LOST
AND THAT THESE TWO
CREWMEN--



ARE
ALREADY
DEAD. I CAN SEE
THEIR ORGANS
DECOMPOSING.

NOTIFY THEIR
FAMILIES. THEY
DIED BRAVELY
SERVING THE
IMPERIUM...



...BUT
UNFORTUNATELY
THEIR REMAINS
WERE LOST TO
THE STARS.

ZIING



I WANT THE
SOURCE OF THE
EXPLOSION.

WE BELIEVE
IT ORIGINATED
FROM AN AUTOMATED
TRANSPORT SHIP
FERRYING NEW
PRISONERS.

SHOW ME
ITS LAST KNOWN
COORDINATES. AND
A MANIFEST OF
EVERYONE ON
BOARD.

MAJESTOR
GLADIATOR...
THERE'S SOMETHING
ELSE.

WHEN THE
ESCAPE POD
RETURNED, WE
DISCOVERED A
STOWAWAY.

PRISONER
ZETA 987-349.
A **BROODLING** OF
SLEAZEWorld.

SENT TO
STELLAR-BLOCK Q
SEVEN CYCLES AGO
AFTER BEING
CONVICTED OF...
BEING A BROOD.

SENTENCE
WAS LIFE
IMPRISONMENT.

HE...ATE THE
FACES OFF THREE
OF OUR GUARDS
WHEN HE WAS
FOUND.



HRRRK
≡GURGLEE CRRK
SNRRRL.*

*BROOD TO SHI'AR
TRANSLATION:
"PRETTY SPACE BIRDS
WILL FIRE. BIG
(UNTRANSLATABLE
CURSE WORD) FIRE.
MURDER STAR WILL
BRAND YOU."

PHRRK
HOKK.
≡PTEWE*



*"UNLESS BROOD
BRAND YOU FIRST."

LIFE
IMPRISONMENT?

BY THE
POWER INVESTED
IN ME AS SUPREME
MAJESTOR OF THE
SHI'AR IMPERIUM, I
HEREBY **ADJUST**
YOUR SENTENCE,
BROODLING OF
SLEAZEWorld.

HSSSS



TO
DEATH.
≡PTEWE*

THE DREADNOUGHT'S LAST
KNOWN COORDINATES--
DROP THEM TO MY
CORTEX NOW.

SIR, GIVEN
THE HIGH LEVELS
OF UNKNOWN
RADIATION, I'M
AFRAID WE...WE
CANNOT GUARANTEE
THE SAFETY OF
OUR WARSHIPS.

I KNOW.

"THAT'S WHY
I WON'T BE
SENDING
ANY SHIPS."

THIS IS THE
IMPERIUM'S PRISON,
BUT IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT,
THIS PROBLEM ORIGINATED
ELSEWHERE.

I WON'T
WASTE ANY MORE
SHI'AR LIVES. IF YOU
HAVEN'T HEARD FROM
ME AFTER SEVENTEEN
STARSECS...

...HERE'S
WHO I WANT
YOU TO CALL.



FIVE DAYS AGO.
AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.
THE HAND HANGARS.

I GOT A BAD
DAMN FEELING
ABOUT THIS.

MY VAMP
SENSES ARE GOING
HAYWIRE. WE SHOULDN'T
BE DOING THIS STUPID
MISSION.

THOUGHT WE
WERE SUPPOSED TO
BE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST
HEROES. THERE'S GOTTA
BE SPACE PEOPLE TO
DEAL WITH THIS KINDA
BUSINESS.

HEH.

WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU SO GIDDY
ABOUT, REYES? YOU
WERE GRINNING
LIKE AN IDIOT THROUGH
CAP'S WHOLE BRIEFING.
DON'T TELL ME YOU
HAVEN'T BEEN TO
OUTER SPACE
BEFORE.

DUDE, UP UNTIL
A FEW MONTHS AGO,
I'D NEVER EVEN LEFT
LOS ANGELES.

WELL, IF YOU
THINK THIS IS GONNA
BE SOME KINDA FUN
ROCKET SHIP RIDE THROUGH
THE STARS, YOU HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT IT'S REALLY
LIKE OUT THERE. I'D
RATHER GO BACK
TO HELL.

THE THUMB BAY.

YOU KNOW HOW MUCH
TRAINING IT TAKES TO
BE AN ASTRONAUT,
BLADE?

WELL, IT TAKES A LOT. YEARS OF
RIGOROUS TRAINING AND TESTING
BEFORE YOU'RE EVER ALLOWED TO
LEAVE EARTH'S ORBIT.

I WAS BORN
IN 1920s LONDON TO
A VAMPIRE PROSTITUTE.
HAVEN'T KEPT UP MUCH
WITH THE SPACE
PROGRAM.

THIS MORNING,
CAPTAIN AMERICA
WALKS IN AND SAYS, "WE'RE
GOING TO SPACE. YOU GOT
TEN MINUTES TO PACK
YOUR STUFF."

THE BLACK PANTHER GIVES US SOME
ALIEN-MALARIA PILLS, AND NOW HERE
WE ARE, ABOUT TO GET INSIDE A
ROCKET AND BLAST OFF.

SO I
WAS GRINNING
BECAUSE...IT'S
EITHER THAT
OR START
SCREAMING.

MAN...

NOTHING
LIKE BEING AN
AVENGER, IS
THERE?

TROUBLE AT A SPACE PRISON. I'M A BIT SURPRISED YOU'D WANT ME FOR THIS ONE, CAP. QUASAR NOT TAKING YOUR CALLS?

WE'RE FLYING INTO THE COSMIC UNKNOWN HERE, NAT. SHORTHANDED.

I NEEDED SOMEONE I KNOW CAN DEAL WITH ANYTHING THAT MIGHT COME OUR WAY, FROM GALACTUS TO A GANG OF SKRULLS WITH SHIVS.

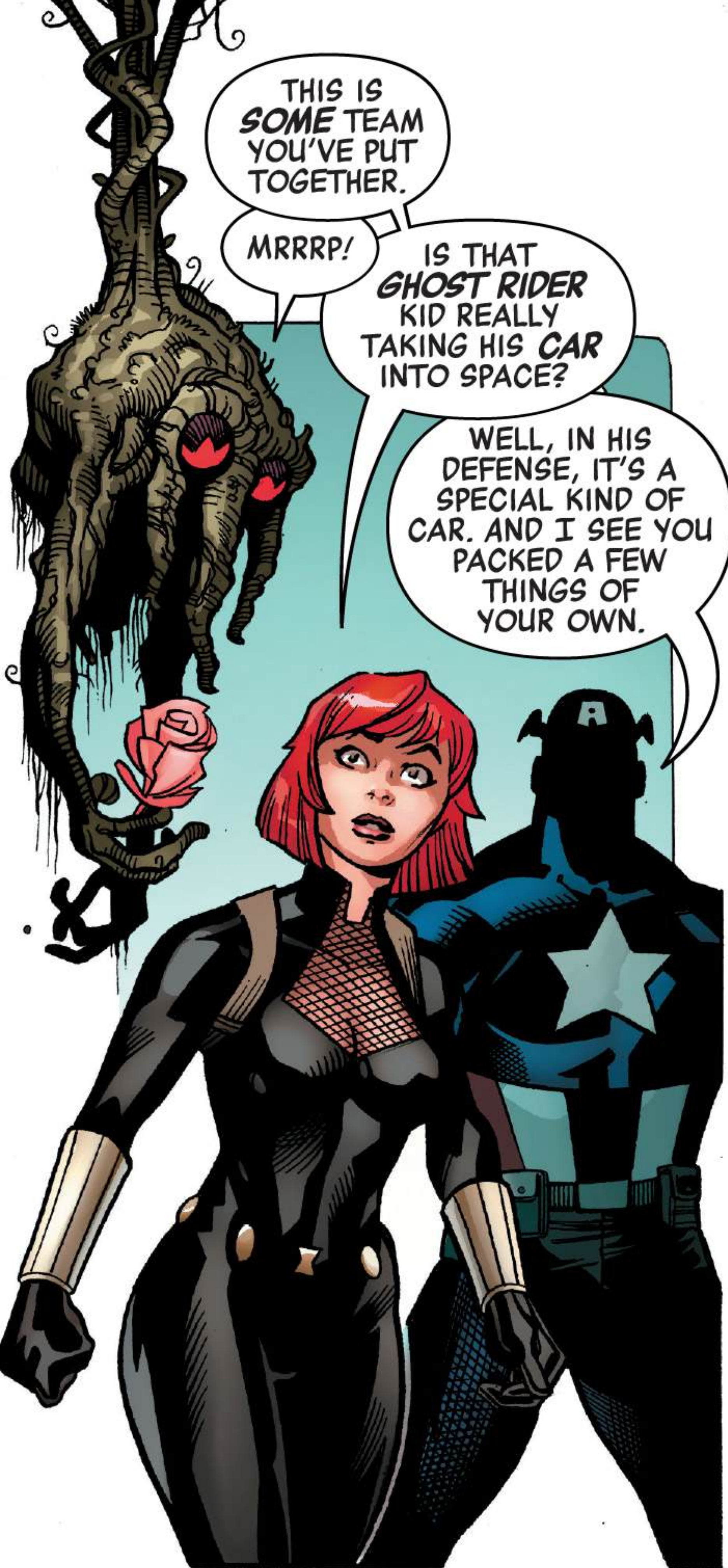
THE **BLACK WIDOW** WAS THE ONLY NAME ON MY LIST.

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN... KEEPING TO THE **SHADOWS** LATELY. I APPRECIATE YOU JOINING UP WITH US.

DON'T EXPECT IT TO BE PERMANENT, STEVE. BUT, I'LL ADMIT... IT WILL BE NICE TO HAVE A BREAK FROM...

"...MY **USUAL BUSINESS**."





THIS IS *SOME* TEAM YOU'VE PUT TOGETHER.

MRRRP!

IS THAT *GHOST RIDER* KID REALLY TAKING HIS *CAR* INTO SPACE?

WELL, IN HIS DEFENSE, IT'S A SPECIAL KIND OF CAR. AND I SEE YOU PACKED A FEW THINGS OF YOUR OWN.



SPACE IS A BIT OUTSIDE MY USUAL M.O., SO I JUST WANTED TO BE PREPARED. THE PANTHER ASSURED ME THAT *TONY* WOULDN'T MIND.

THANKS FOR THE HAND, THOR.

WE KNOW WHAT HE WAS INVESTIGATING, BUT NO, WE STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT'VE *DISAPPEARED* TO.

T'CHALLA IS STAYING BEHIND TO KEEP SEARCHING.

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, LADY WIDOW! THE *VODKA* IS ALREADY ABOARD!

STILL NO WORD ON STARK?

THEN DON'T WORRY, STEVE.



"I'M SURE TONY WILL TURN UP SOON ENOUGH."

THUMBS-UP
ON THE **NEW**
THREADS,
JEN.

I HEAR YOU AND
T'CHALLA DESIGNED THEM
TO HARNESS YOUR GAMMA
EMISSIONS AND HELP PREVENT
ANY MORE UNWANTED
EXPLOSIONS. THAT
TRUE?

HHRGH.

GOOD. SINCE
WE'RE ABOUT TO GO
HURLING THROUGH SPACE
AT LUDICROUS SPEEDS
INSIDE A PRESSURIZED
METAL TUBE.

HHRGH.

I KNOW,
I'M **EXCITED**
TOO. GET READY
FOR BLASTOFF,
DARLING.

THE STARBRAND.
SOME KINDA MYSTERIOUS
STAR-SHAPED MARK THAT
GIVES ITS BEARER ENOUGH
COSMIC POWER TO
DESTROY ENTIRE
PLANETS.

AFTER
DAREDEVIL'S
WARNING A COUPLE
WEEKS BACK,* CAP THINKS
THE STARBRAND MIGHT
BE INVOLVED IN THIS
SHI'AR PRISON
MESS.

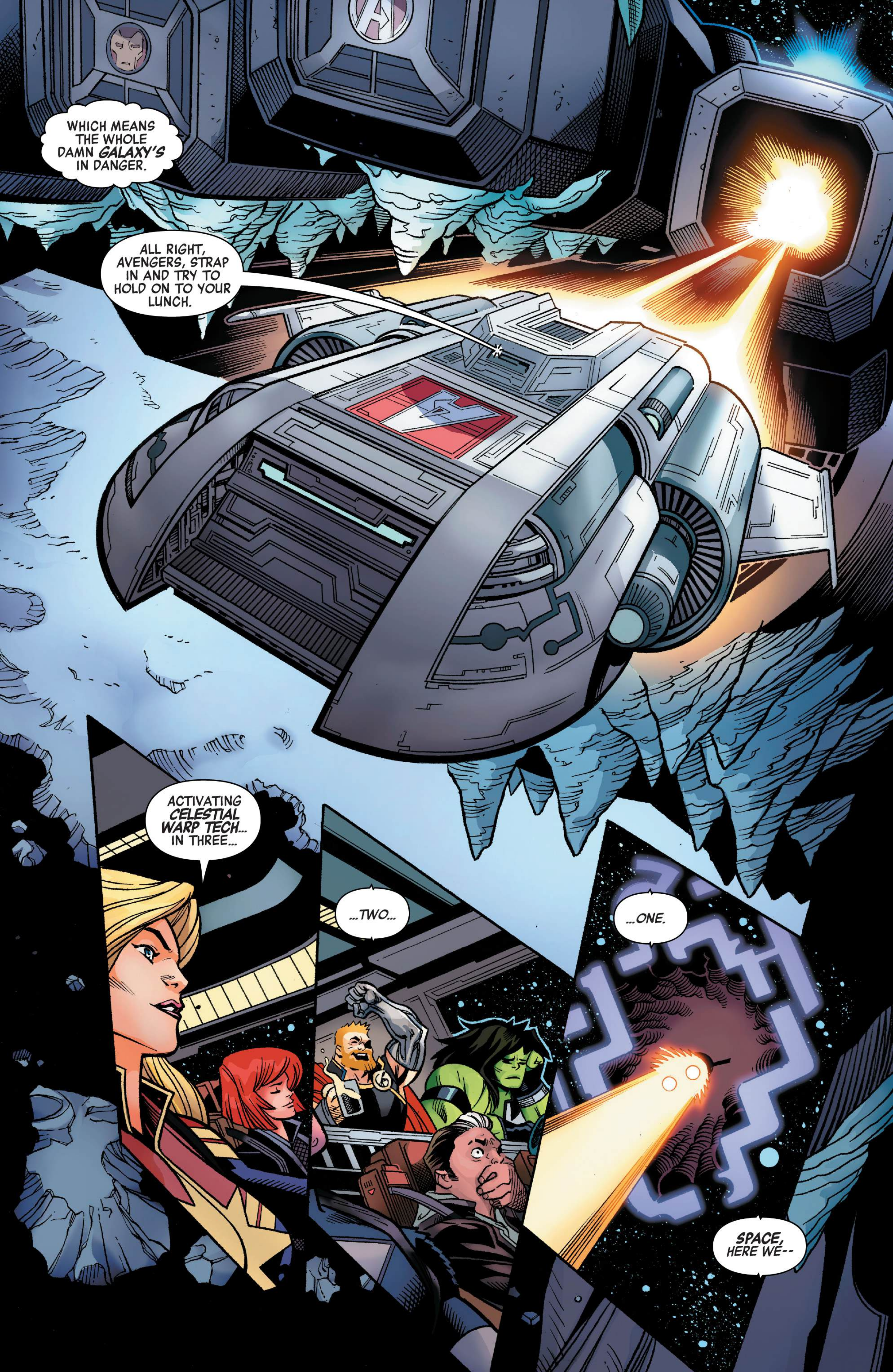
BUT IT'S A
WEAPON MEANT
TO DEFEND THE EARTH.
WHAT'S IT DOING SO
FAR OUT IN
SPACE?

THE LAST
PERSON TO WIELD
THE BRAND WENT CRAZY
AND **BLEW UP** DURING THE
INVASION OF THE CELESTIAL
FINAL HOST.** GOOD TO
KNOW I WASN'T THE
ONLY ONE, I GUESS.

MAYBE THIS
NEW STARBRAND
PERSON HAS SOME
ANSWERS ABOUT WHAT'S
BEEN HAPPENING
TO ME.

OR MAYBE...
GODS HELP US...
THEY'RE JUST AS
LOST AS I
AM.

*AS SEEN IN
AVENGERS #20
AND **MARVEL
LEGACY #1! --Tom



WHICH MEANS
THE WHOLE
DAMN *GALAXY'S*
IN DANGER.

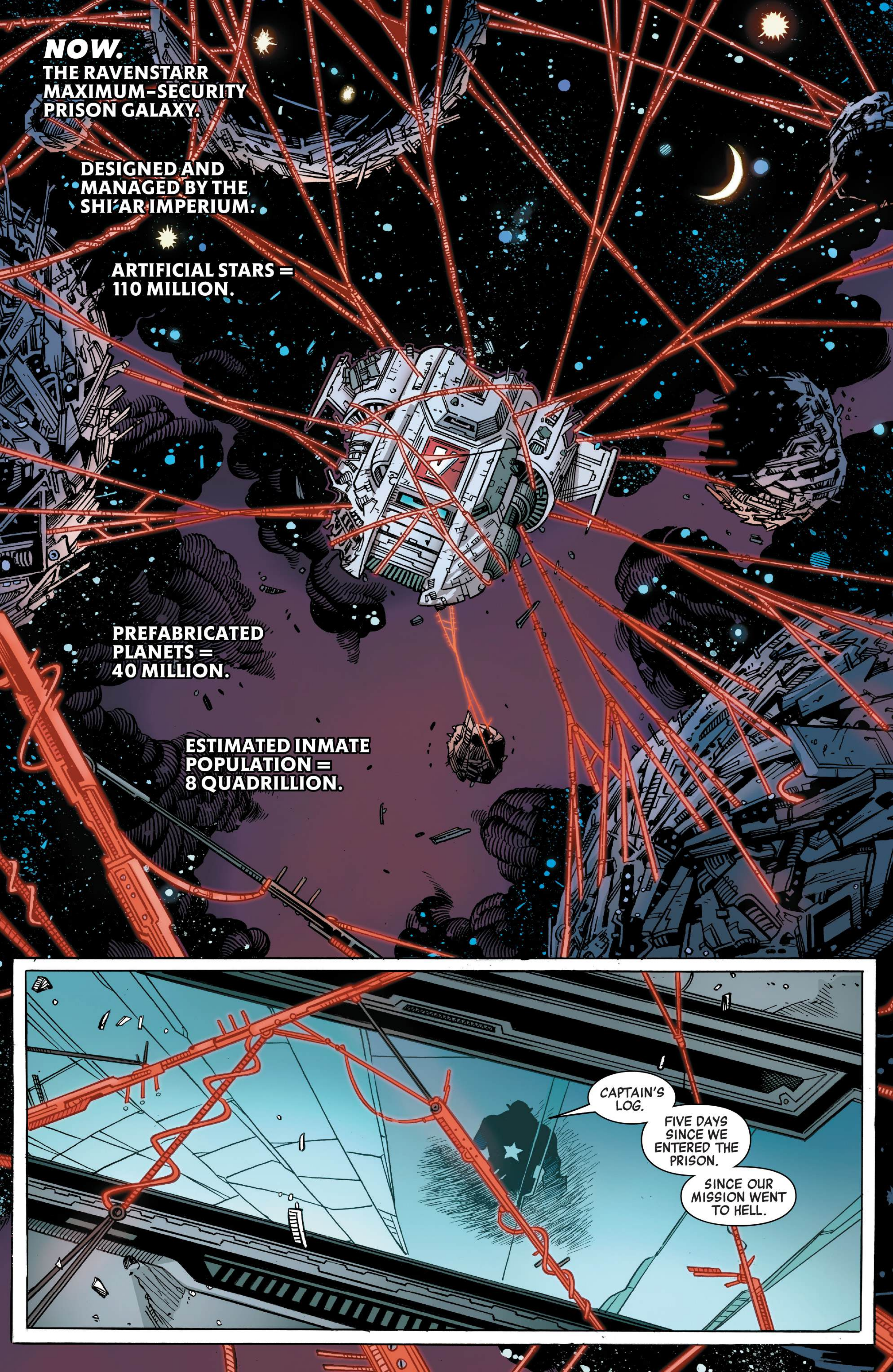
ALL RIGHT,
AVENGERS, STRAP
IN AND TRY TO
HOLD ON TO YOUR
LUNCH.

ACTIVATING
CELESTIAL
WARP TECH...
IN THREE...

...TWO...

...ONE.

SPACE,
HERE WE--



NOW.
THE RAVENSTARR
MAXIMUM-SECURITY
PRISON GALAXY.

DESIGNED AND
MANAGED BY THE
SHI'AR IMPERIUM.

ARTIFICIAL STARS =
110 MILLION.

PREFABRICATED
PLANETS =
40 MILLION.

ESTIMATED INMATE
POPULATION =
8 QUADRILLION.

CAPTAIN'S
LOG.

FIVE DAYS
SINCE WE
ENTERED THE
PRISON.

SINCE OUR
MISSION WENT
TO HELL.



WE'VE BEEN SHIPWRECKED FOR THREE DAYS, LEAKING OXYGEN, POWER ALMOST COMPLETELY DEPLETED.

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH JUICE LEFT TO ESCAPE THE **MAGNETIC WEBS** THE PRISONERS SET UP TO SNARE SHIPS.

AND THE **SCAVENGERS** ARE GROWING IN NUMBER. WHILE OUR RANKS... KEEP DWINDLING.

NO WORD FROM **CAROL** SINCE SHE LEFT YESTERDAY TO SEARCH FOR ANOTHER SHIP.



AND STILL NO CONTACT WITH THE TEAM MEMBERS WHO WERE **LOST IN SPACE** DURING THE BREACH CAUSED BY THOR'S INITIAL... **EPISODE**.

HE'S GETTING **WORSE** EVERY DAY.

TALKING TO HIS HAMMER IS THE ONLY THING THAT SEEMS TO KEEP HIM CALM.

MUST... HOLD HAMMER.

HOLDING HAMMER... MEANS... **STILL WORTHY**.

STILL WORTHY.

STILL WORTHY.



STILL
THOR.

THOR...
NOT BROOD.
NOT WANT
TO KILL.

NOT FEED.
NOT INFECT. NOT
BITE AND TEAR AND
SLAUGHTER.



NO SIGN OF
GLADIATOR. NO
COMMUNICATIONS
FROM EARTH OR
THE SHI'AR.

AND STILL NO
DIRECT CONTACT
WITH THE **STARBRAND**.
WE'VE ONLY SEEN...
THE **EFFECTS** OF
ITS RAMPAGE.

JEN SAYS
THE RADIATION
READINGS ARE
BEYOND ANYTHING
SHE'S EVER SEEN.
AND WITH
JEN...

"...THAT'S OBVIOUSLY SAYING A LOT."

RRRRRGGGH!!!

BROOD.

YESTERDAY IT WAS **WAR SKRULLS** AND **DIRE WRAITHS**. THE DAY BEFORE THAT, **BADOON**. TODAY IT'S MORE **BROOD**. TOMORROW...

IT WON'T REALLY MATTER **WHO** SHOWS UP TO TAKE OUR SHIP TOMORROW. BECAUSE BY THEN WE'LL ALL BE **DEAD**.

THE PRISONERS ARE DESPERATE TO ESCAPE THIS DEATH TRAP.

WITH JUST ONE LOOK AROUND THIS PLACE...I CAN UNDERSTAND **WHY**.

CAPTAIN MARVEL TO AVENGERS! YOUR NEW RIDE JUST SHOWED UP, PEOPLE! BE READY TO MOVE!



I'M
COMING IN
HOT!

FOUND A
JUNK SHIP A
FEW SYSTEMS
AWAY, EMERGING
FROM A WHITE
HOLE.

PRETTY SURE
IT ONCE BELONGED
TO A GROUP OF **SPACE
PIRATES** I KNOW
CALLED THE
STARJAMMERS.

A HIVE OF
FLESH-DEVOURING
BUGS HAD TAKEN UP
RESIDENCE INSIDE. I
PERSUADED THEM
TO LEAVE.

BEING THAT
CLOSE TO THE WHITE
HOLE DID TRIGGER MY OLD
BINARY FORM. SO...MY
HEAD'S **ON FIRE** NOW.
JUST SO YOU
KNOW.

CAROL,
YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.
LET'S GET THOR LOADED
ONTO THE NEW SHIP AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WITH ALL
THESE BROOD IN
THE AREA, I'M
WORRIED ABOUT
HOW HE'S BEING
AFFECTED.

THOR
HOLDING
HAMMER. STILL
WORTHY. STILL
THOR AS LONG
AS HOLDING...

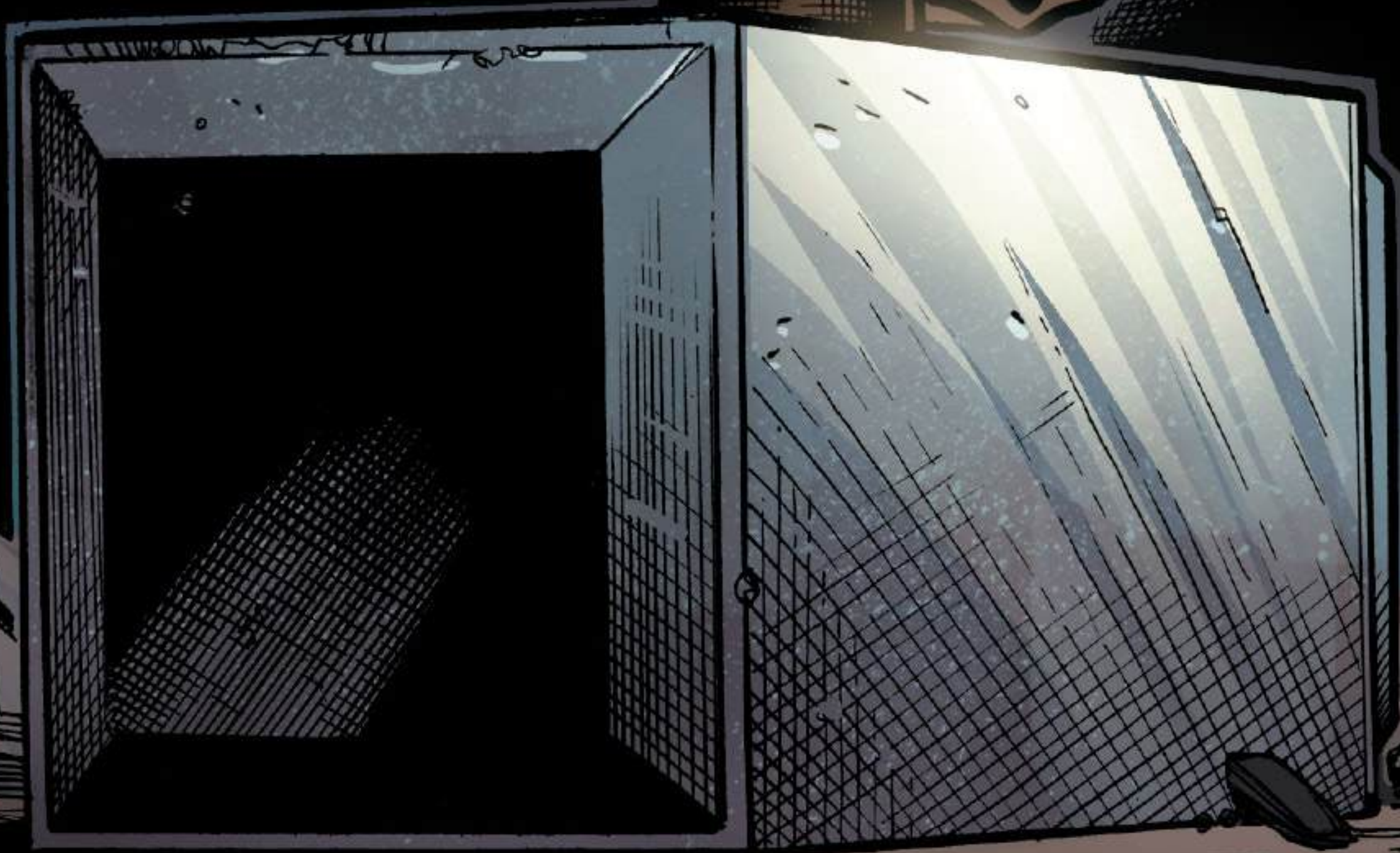


THOOM

AVENGERS.

WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

RRRRRGH!
WHY HAMMER
NOT *MOVE*?!
NOT THOR
IF NOT HOLDING
HAMMER! IF NOT
THOR...THEN...

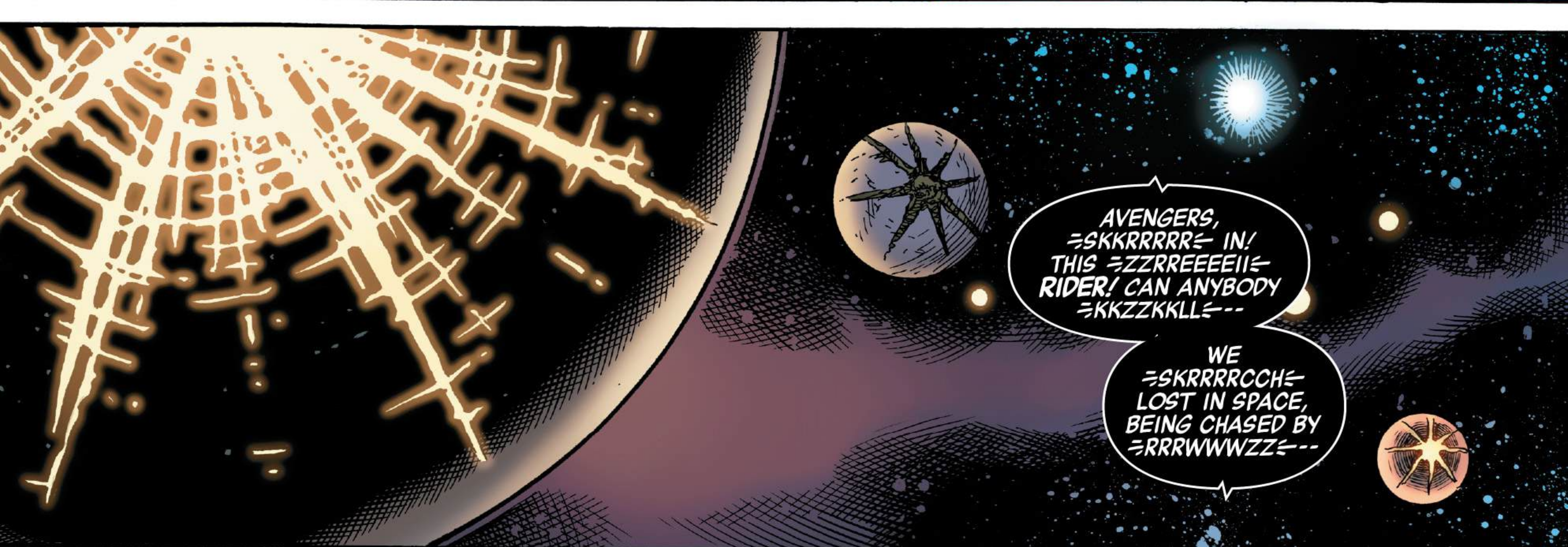


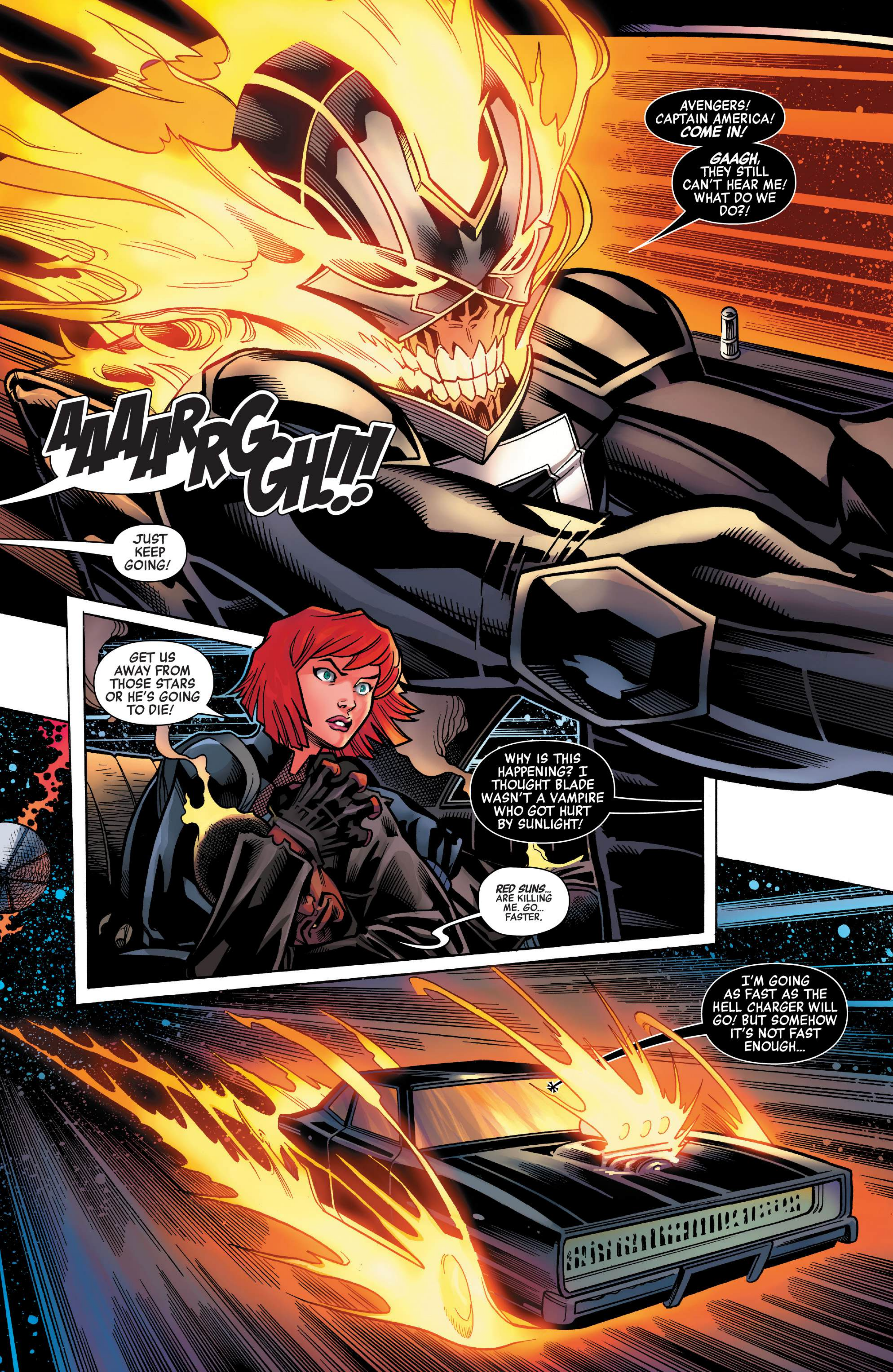
THOR, LISTEN
TO ME. YOU'RE
NOT A BROOD.

YOU'RE THE
GOD OF THUNDER,
THE *ALL-FATHER* OF
ASGARD. YOU'RE
STRONGER THAN
THIS.

YESSS.
THOR IS...
STRONGEST
THERE IS.







AVENGERS!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
COME IN!

GAAGH,
THEY STILL
CAN'T HEAR ME!
WHAT DO WE
DO?!

AAAAARGH!!!

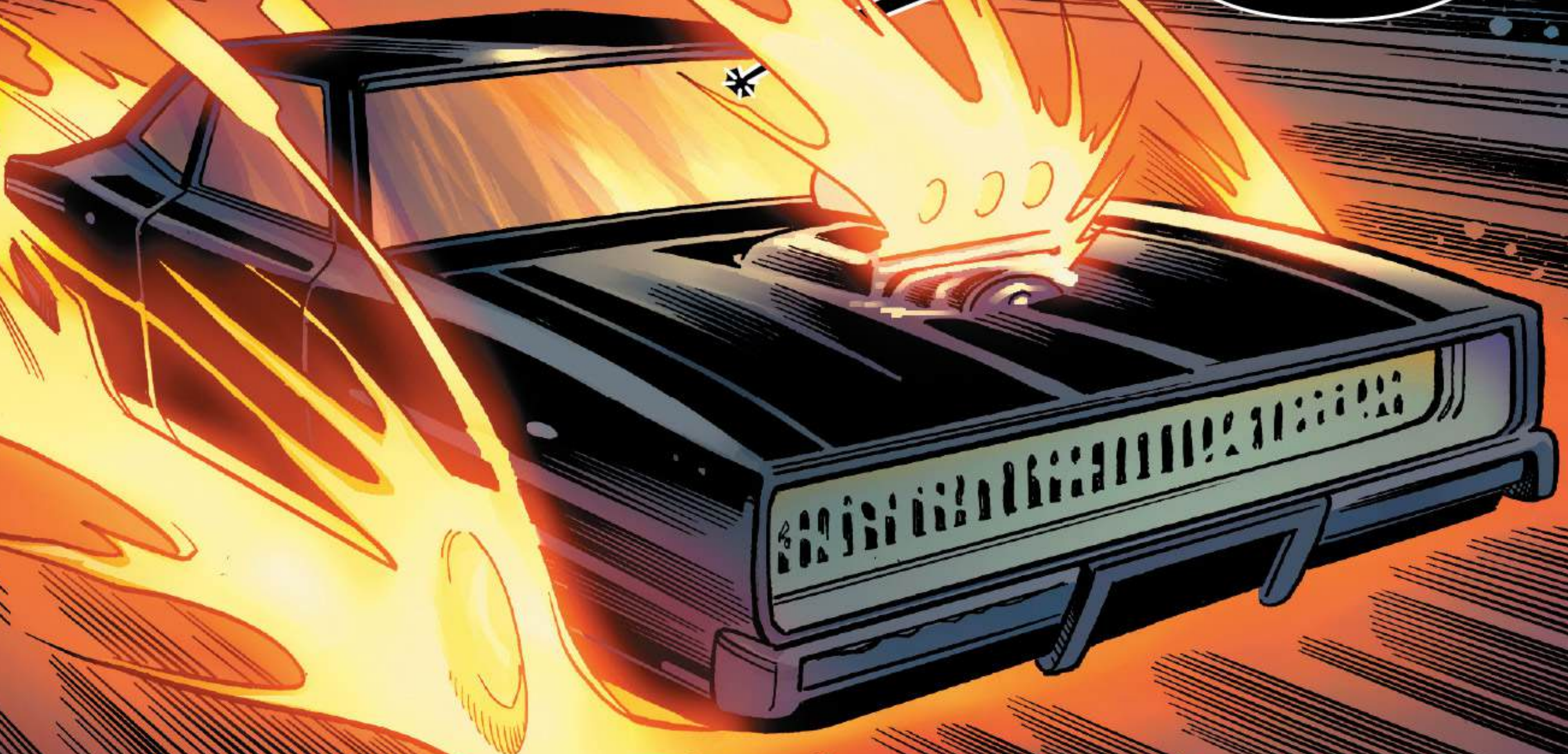
JUST
KEEP
GOING!

GET US
AWAY FROM
THOSE STARS
OR HE'S GOING
TO DIE!

WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING? I
THOUGHT BLADE
WASN'T A VAMPIRE
WHO GOT HURT
BY SUNLIGHT!

RED SUNS...
ARE KILLING
ME. GO...
FASTER.

I'M GOING
AS FAST AS THE
HELL CHARGER WILL
GO! BUT SOMEHOW
IT'S NOT FAST
ENOUGH...



...TO
OUTRUN A
SURFBOARD!





NICK BRADSHAW & RACHELLE ROSENBERG
27 2099 VARIANT

28 **STARBRAND REBORN PART 2**
THE THREE HERALDS



DAYS AGO.

MY BROTHER
HERALDS.

WE HAVE
BEEN DRAWN
TOGETHER FROM
THE FAR CORNERS OF
THE STELLAR SEAS
FOR A COMMON
PURPOSE.

WE MUST PUT
ASIDE THE ISSUES
WE HAVE HAD IN
THE PAST.

HMPRH.

IF BY **ISSUES**,
SURFER, YOU MEAN
WE'VE FOUGHT TO **HACK**
EACH OTHER INTO BUCKETS
OF **BLOODY SPACE CHUM**,
THEN YES, BY THE GUTS
OF **GALACTUS**, **ISSUES**
WE **HAVE**.

AND SOME
OF US STILL
BELIEVE THAT'S
A FINE IDEA.

TAME YOUR
TONGUE, **TERRAX**.
OR I WILL GLADLY
TAME IT FOR
YOU.

WITH
FIRE.

THE RAVENSTARR MAXIMUM- SECURITY PRISON GALAXY.

MIND YOUR
OWN TONGUE,
FIRELORD, YOU
XANDARIAN--

GENTLEMEN.
PLEASE.

WE ARE BOUND
TO ONE ANOTHER
FOREVER BY THE **POWER
COSMIC**, WHETHER WE
LIKE IT OR NOT.

WHICH
IS WHY WE
HAVE BEEN
CALLED HERE BY
THE CELESTIAL
FATES.

WE ALONE
HAVE THE POWER TO
AVERT THE UNIVERSAL
ARMAGEDDON NOW
BREWING INSIDE THIS
SHI'AR PRISON
GALAXY.

**THREE
HERALDS.**

WHO
COME SEEKING
A **STAR**.

AND IF WE
AGREE ON NOTHING
ELSE, LET US AT
LEAST BE IN GRIM
UNISON...

...WHEN IT
COMES TO WHAT
MUST BE **DONE**...
ONCE THAT **STAR**
IS **FOUND**.

YES.

BLOODY
ASTEROIDS,
YES.

THEN IT
IS AGREED. AND
WOE UNTO ANYONE
WHO DARES STAND
BETWEEN THE THREE
HERALDS...



"...AND THE
STARBRAND."

NOW.

BROOD THOR
WILL FEAST ON
YOUR FLESH!

CAP, THIS IS
CAROL. WHAT'S
HAPPENING? ARE
YOU UNDER
ATTACK?

BROOD THOR
WILL LAY HIS
MIGHTY EGGS IN
YOUR SOFT
LITTLE FACE!

UUGH!

YOU
MIGHT SAY
THAT,
CAROL.

THOR IS OUT
OF CONTROL. I'M
AFRAID THIS CALLS...
FOR **EXTREME**
MEASURES.

HRRRRGH!

GRRRRRGH!

I REMEMBER
THIS BEING A
LOT EASIER.

YOU! YOU
TRY TO STEAL
HAMMER!

NO ONE
LIFT HAMMER
BUT **BROOD OF
THUNDER!**

HE'S SLOWER
THAN NORMAL.
SLUGGISH. HIS BODY'S
FIGHTING THE
INFECTION.

BUT A BLOW
FROM THAT **URU**
ARM OF HIS WILL
STILL SHATTER
EVERY BONE IN
MY BODY.

ONLY ONE
CHANCE AT
THIS.

I'M SORRY,
OLD FRIEND. I
TRULY AM.

I WAS
ALWAYS
RAISED TO
RESPECT
GOD.

THINK
WORTHY THOUGHTS.
BASEBALL. APPLE PIE.
PUNCHING
NAZIS.



BUT EVEN
GOD HAS A
BAD DAY NOW
AND THEN!



RRGH?

HE'S
AWAKE.

HEY,
HOW'RE
YOU FEELING,
BIG GUY?

THOR...
HEAD
HURT.

WHY THOR
FEEL LIKE...
SOMEONE HIT
HIM WITH
HAMMER?

YEAH, MUST
BE THE BROOD
INFECTION. FEEL
FREE TO TAKE IT
EASY FOR A
SPELL.

WE'RE
GONNA GET YOU
HELP, I PROMISE.
CAROL FOUND US A
NEW SHIP--AND ME
SOME NEW CLOTHES--
SO WE'RE ON THE
MOVE AGAIN.

WHO...
MOVED
HAMMER?

YOU DID,
BUDDY. YOU'RE
WORTHY, REMEMBER?
YOU'RE THE MIGHTY
THOR.

BE READY
FOR ANYTHING.
HE LIKES TO GO
FOR THE FACE.

I...
I AM?

AYE.

I...AM...
THE MIGHTY
THOR.



WHEW.

HE'S ONLY GETTING WORSE, CAP. WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF THIS PRISON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE--WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME TO SAVE WHATEVER'S LEFT OF THE REAL HIM.

I KNOW, CAROL. BUT WE HAVE A MISSION. YOU'VE SEEN THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION THE SAME AS I HAVE. ENTIRE WORLDS BURNED TO A CRISP.

THE SOONER WE FIND THE STARBRAND AND END THIS, THE SOONER WE CAN SAVE OUR FRIEND.

THEN WE BETTER GET MOVING.

JEN, YOU READY OUT THERE?

HRGH.

WE DON'T WANNA LEAVE THE MIGHTY QUIN LYING AROUND FOR JUST ANYONE TO FIND. SO LET'S CLEAN UP AFTER OURSELVES, HULK STYLE.

GOOD CHANCE TO GIVE MY NEW WAKANDAN BATTLE SUIT A TRIAL RUN.

ME AND T'CHALLA DESIGNED IT TO HELP ABSORB MY GAMMA EMISSIONS. HELP ME CONTAIN THEM. AND WHEN THE TIME COMES...

...VENT THEM, WITH MAXIMUM EFFECT!



NICE WORK, JEN. JOIN US WHENEVER YOU'RE READY. THIS **STARJAMMER** TRAIN IS LEAVING THE STATION.

DAMN.

SOMETIMES IT FEELS REALLY **GOOD** TO BE A HULK.

HHRHRRRRRGGH!!!

ALL RIGHT, WHICH WAY, **CAPTAIN CORSAIR**?

YOU KNOW WHICH WAY, CAROL. WE KEEP FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF BURNED PLANETS UNTIL WE FIND THE **STARBRAND**.

"YEAH, AND THEN WHAT?"

"AND THEN I IMAGINE WE'LL HAVE ONE HELL OF A **FIGHT** ON OUR HANDS."

GAGH, NOW HE'S SHOOTING AT US! WHO IS THIS GUY?!

THAT'S THE **SILVER SURFER**, A FORMER HERALD OF GALACTUS. I THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THE **GOOD GUYS**. BUT IT'S ALWAYS HARD TO TELL WITH THESE SPACE PEOPLE.

YOU SURE YOU'RE THINKING OF THE RIGHT GUY? THERE IS NOT A DAMN THING **SILVER** ABOUT THIS DUDE!

AAARGGH!

BLADE IS GETTING WORSE BY THE SECOND. TURNS OUT **RED SUNLIGHT** IS LETHAL TO HIS VAMPIRE DNA. WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF THIS SOLAR SYSTEM.

OKAY, ENOUGH OF THIS. NO AVENGERS ARE DYING IN MY CAR.

BOY-THING, TAKE THE WHEEL.

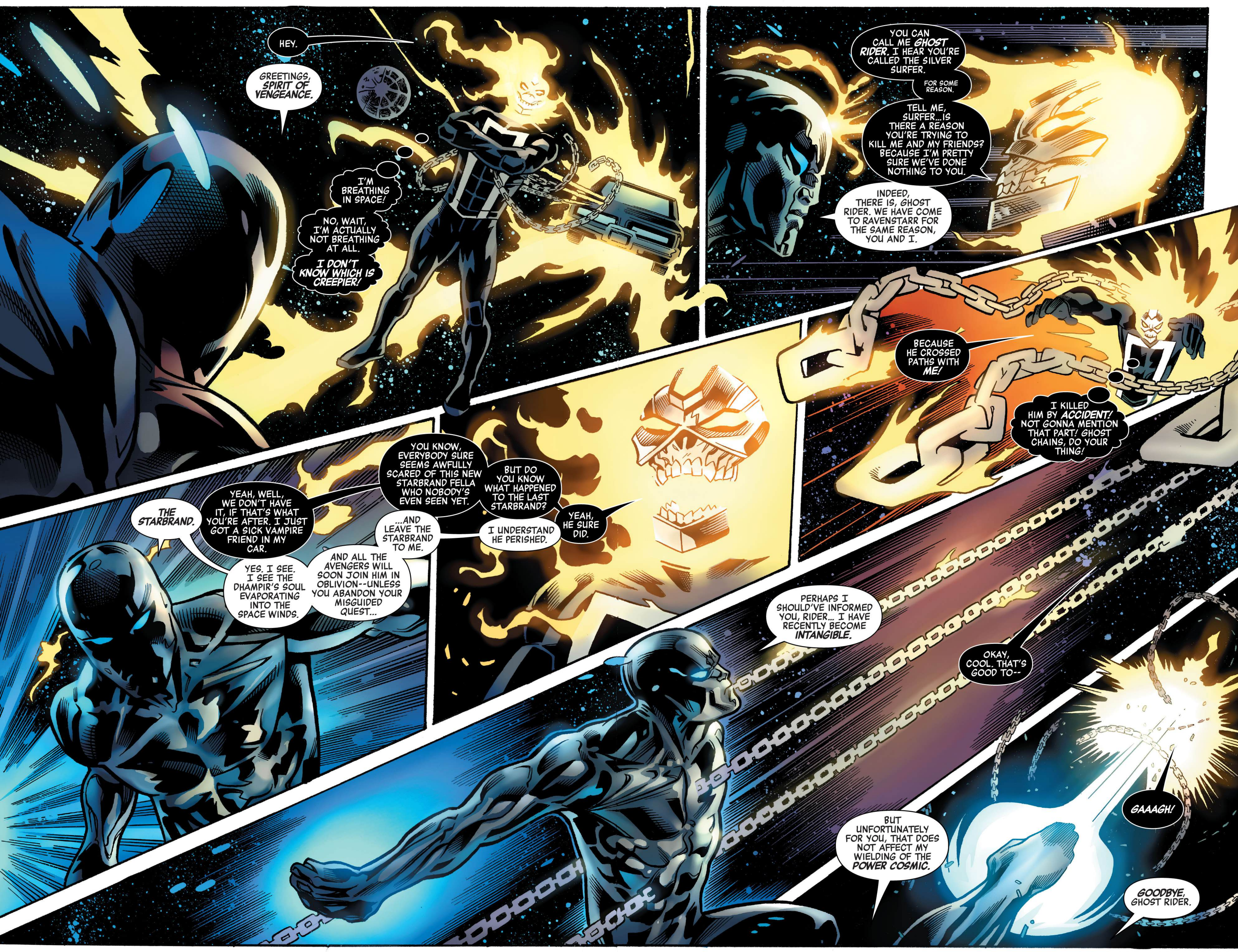
MRRP?

ROBBIE, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

I'M JUST GONNA TALK TO HIM. SEE WHAT HE WANTS.

IT'S OKAY, MS. WIDOW, I'M FROM **LOS ANGELES**. I DEAL WITH SURFERS ALL THE TIME.

WAIT, CAN I BREATHE IN SPACE? NO, NO ONE CAN BREATHE IN SPACE, YOU IDIOT! GET BACK IN THE...



HEY.

GREETINGS,
SPIRIT OF
VENGEANCE.

I'M
BREATHING
IN SPACE!

NO, WAIT.
I'M ACTUALLY
NOT BREATHING
AT ALL.

I DON'T
KNOW WHICH IS
CREEPIER!

YOU KNOW,
EVERYBODY SURE
SEEMS AWFULLY
SCARED OF THIS NEW
STARBRAND FELLA
WHO NOBODY'S
EVEN SEEN YET.

BUT DO
YOU KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE LAST
STARBRAND?

YEAH,
HE SURE
DID.

I UNDERSTAND
HE PERISHED.

...AND
LEAVE THE
STARBRAND
TO ME.

AND ALL THE
AVENGERS WILL
SOON JOIN HIM IN
OBLIVION--UNLESS
YOU ABANDON YOUR
MISGUIDED
QUEST...

YEAH, WELL,
WE DON'T HAVE
IT, IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU'RE AFTER. I JUST
GOT A SICK VAMPIRE
FRIEND IN MY CAR.

YES, I SEE.
I SEE THE
DHAMPIR'S SOUL
EVAPORATING
INTO THE
SPACE WINDS.

THE
STARBRAND.

YOU CAN
CALL ME *GHOST
RIDER*. I HEAR YOU'RE
CALLED THE *SILVER
SURFER*.

FOR SOME
REASON.

TELL ME,
SURFER...IS
THERE A REASON
YOU'RE TRYING TO
KILL ME AND MY FRIENDS?
BECAUSE I'M PRETTY
SURE WE'VE DONE
NOTHING TO YOU.

INDEED,
THERE IS, *GHOST
RIDER*. WE HAVE COME
TO RAVENSTARR FOR
THE SAME REASON,
YOU AND I.

BECAUSE
HE CROSSED
PATHS WITH
ME!

I KILLED
HIM BY *ACCIDENT*!
NOT GONNA MENTION
THAT PART! *GHOST
CHAINS*, DO YOUR
THING!

PERHAPS I
SHOULD'VE INFORMED
YOU, *RIDER*... I HAVE
RECENTLY BECOME
INTANGIBLE.

OKAY,
COOL, THAT'S
GOOD TO--

BUT
UNFORTUNATELY
FOR YOU, THAT DOES
NOT AFFECT MY
WIELDING OF THE
POWER COSMIC.

GAAAAGH!

GOODBYE,
GHOST RIDER.



WE JUST LOST THE KID.

BOY-THING, MOVE OVER-- I'M TAKING THE WHEEL.

I AM SORRY, AVENGERS. BUT I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO STAND IN THE WAY OF MY MISSION. THE FATE OF ALL WORLDS DEPENDS ON IT.

INTANGIBLE, HUH? GOOD TRICK.

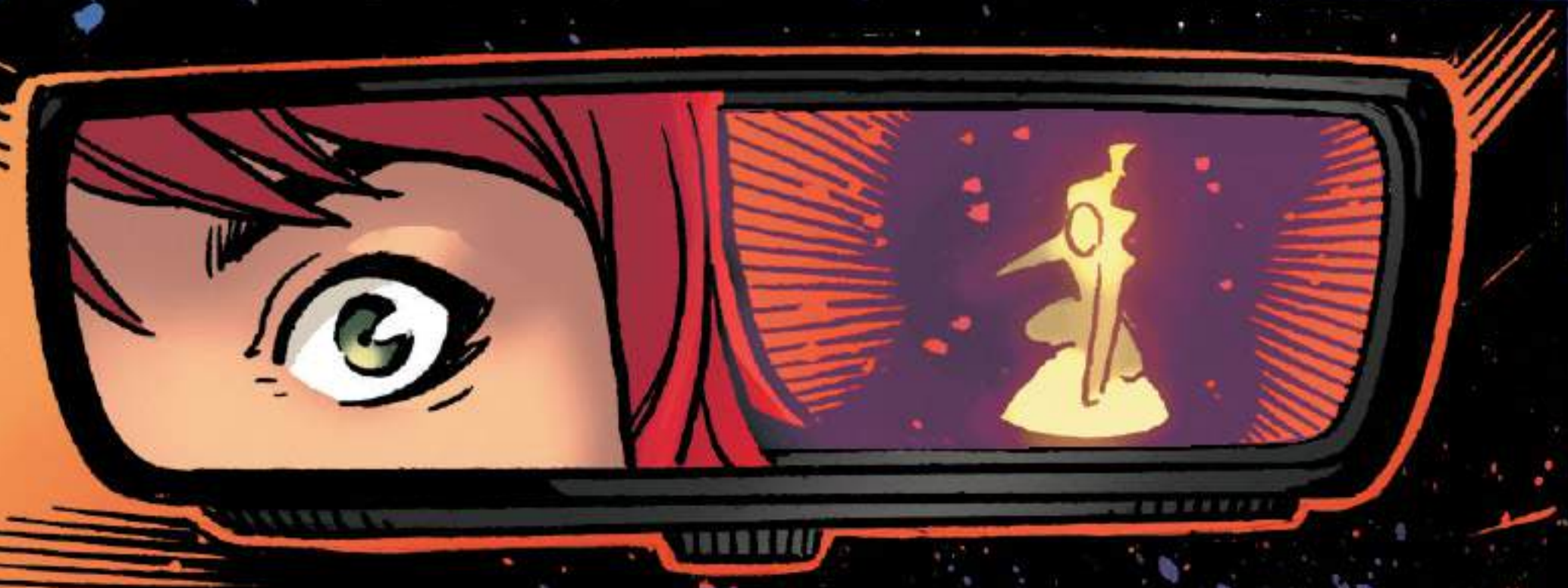
IMPOSSIBLE! THE **BOARD** IS INTANGIBLE TOO. HOW ARE YOU...

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE SOULS.

GRRGGH!!!

I SEE YOUR **SINS**, NORRIN RADD. THEY'RE AS MANY AS THE DAMN STARS. AND ANY SINNER ALIVE...

...CAN FEEL THE BURN OF HELLFIRE!



I'LL BE DAMNED.

I'VE KNOWN A FEW GHOST RIDERS IN MY TIME. BUT I CAN ALREADY TELL...



"...THERE'S SURE AS HELL
SOMETHING *SPECIAL*
ABOUT THIS KID."

I HAVE NO
IDEA HOW TO *STEER*
THIS THING!

DID ANYBODY
SEE WHERE THE SURFER
WENT? SOMETHING TELLS
ME HE'S NOT FAR A--

TO *ME*, MY
BOARD.

WHOA!

YEP. HE'S
STILL BACK
THERE.

LOOK OUT!
I CAN'T SEE
WHERE I'M...

THE STARBRAND.
THE SPIRIT OF
VENGEANCE. THE DEFEAT
OF THE CELESTIAL
FINAL HOST.

I SEE WHAT
YOU ARE *BUILDING*,
AVENGERS. EVEN IF
YOU DO NOT.

BUT ALL THE
PRIMORDIAL FORCES
OF YOUR WORLD WILL
NOT SAVE YOU...

...FROM THE
COSMIC JUSTICE
OF THE SURFER.

GAAARGH!
WE'RE OUT
OF CONTROL!
HOLD ON!

WE'RE
GONNA
CRASH!

SOMETIMES LIFE
COMES AT YOU *FAST*.
OR SO I'VE HEARD.

BACK ON EARTH.

I DON'T USUALLY HAVE MUCH OF A PROBLEM SEEING WHAT'S COMING. BEING THE WORLD'S MOST RENOWNED *FUTURIST* AND ALL.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH THE *PAST*--WELL...

A MILLION YEARS EARLIER.

...THAT CATCHES UP TO ALL OF US NOW AND AGAIN.

GRRRRRRGGGH!!!

WHAT THE HELL
IS THIS? WHO ARE
YOU PEOPLE?

LAST THING I
KNEW, I WAS IN A
CAVE AND THERE WAS
A SUDDEN ENERGY
SURGE AND...

OH. OH HELL.
THIS IS TIME TRAVEL,
ISN'T IT? THAT WOULD
EXPLAIN THE...

GUUGH!

HAMMER.

ANOTHER
FOUL TIME-RAIDER.
LOOKING FOR EASY
PLUNDER.

YOU WILL
NOT FIND IT
HERE, KNAVE.
JUST AS YOUR
PREDECESSORS
DID NOT.

YES, HE IS
MOST DEFINITELY
TIME-DISPLACED.

BUT THERE IS
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM
THAT FEELS *DIFFERENT* FROM
THE ARMORED DESPOTS AND
FUTURISTIC CONQUERORS
WHO'VE COME
BEFORE.

BAH, WHAT
DOES IT MATTER,
AGAMOTTO?

LIKE
THOSE OTHER
POMPOUS WOULD-BE
INVADERS FROM THE
YEARS YET TO COME,
HE THINKS THIS PERIOD
OF TIME TO BE
PRIMITIVE. RIPE
FOR TAKING.



NO.

NO, I MOST ASSUREDLY DID NOT.

NOW, WHO ARE YOU ALL AGAIN?

BUT HE DID NOT COUNT ON US.

I'M ABOUT TO DIE AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

AT THE HANDS OF SOME... PREHISTORIC AVENGERS.

YEAH.



DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE COMING.

RRRRRRGGGH!!!

NOW.

≡ZZZKT≡...
IS MAJESTOR
KALLARK OF THE
≡KRRRKLE≡ IMPERIUM.
GLADIATOR OF
≡FZZZK≡ IMPERIAL
GUARD.

≡KRRRRRK≡
...BROADCASTING ON
ALL CHANNELS. I HAVE
FOUND THE STARBRAND.
REPEAT, I HAVE FOUND
THE ≡FFRRRRZ≡

UUGH.

EVERYBODY
ALL RIGHT?

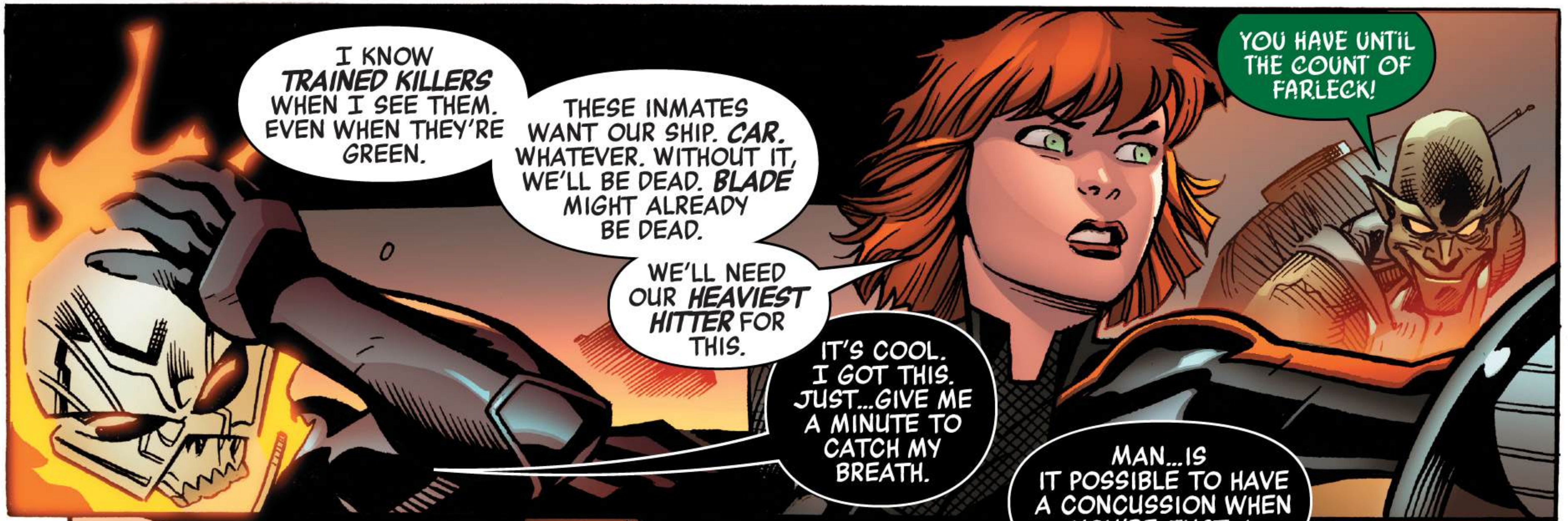
THIS MAY
SOUND UNBELIEVABLE,
BUT THE MOST POWERFUL
COSMIC WEAPON IN THE
UNIVERSE IS NOW IN THE
POSSESSION OF
≡ZZZZRRT≡

UH... NO.
WE'RE NOT
ABOUT TO
BE.

COME
OUT OF THE
SHIP!

WITH
YOUR ARMS
OR TENTACLES
OR WHATEVER THE
FLARK YOU'VE GOT
REACHING FOR
THE STARS!

DAMN. THAT
IS THE UGLIEST
DAMN STARSHIP
I'VE EVER
SEEN.



I KNOW
TRAINED KILLERS
WHEN I SEE THEM.
EVEN WHEN THEY'RE
GREEN.

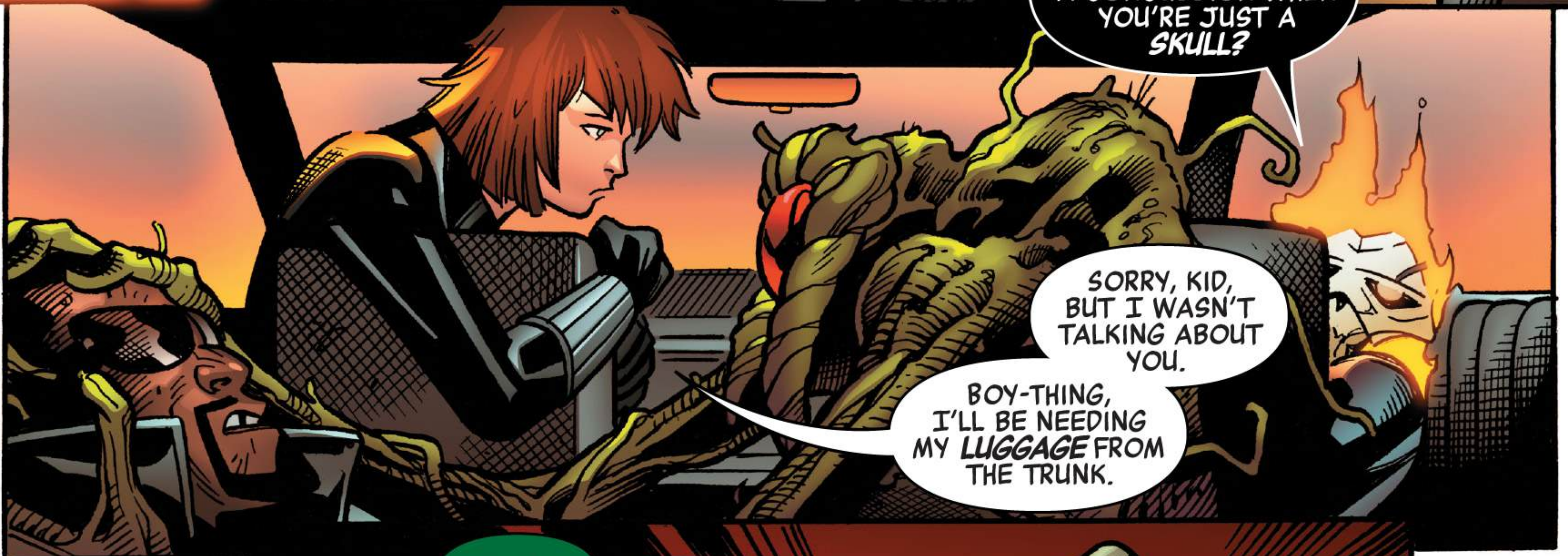
THESE INMATES
WANT OUR SHIP. **CAR.**
WHATEVER. WITHOUT IT,
WE'LL BE DEAD. **BLADE**
MIGHT ALREADY
BE DEAD.

WE'LL NEED
OUR **HEAVIEST**
HITTER FOR
THIS.

IT'S COOL.
I GOT THIS.
JUST...GIVE ME
A MINUTE TO
CATCH MY
BREATH.

YOU HAVE UNTIL
THE COUNT OF
FARLECK!

MAN...IS
IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE
A CONCUSSION WHEN
YOU'RE JUST A
SKULL?



SORRY, KID,
BUT I WASN'T
TALKING ABOUT
YOU.

BOY-THING,
I'LL BE NEEDING
MY **LUGGAGE** FROM
THE TRUNK.

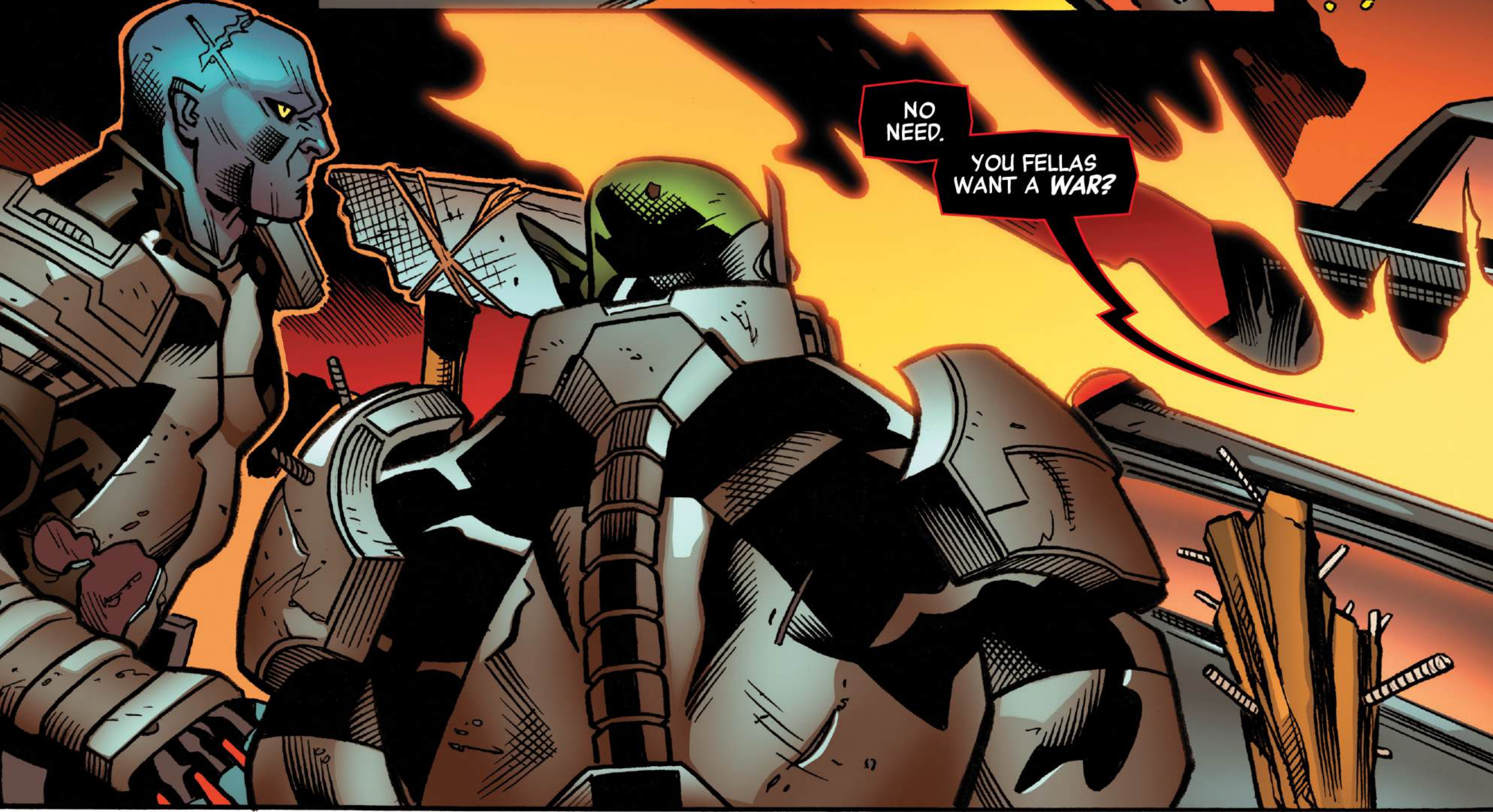
FINGO!
FARLECK!

OKAY, YOU
MISSED YOUR
CHANCE TO DIE
EASY! NOW WE'RE
COMING IN!



NO
NEED.

YOU FELLAS
WANT A **WAR?**



A full-page comic book illustration of Natalia Romanova in her War Widow armor. She is depicted from the waist up, facing forward with a determined expression. Her armor is dark blue and black with a prominent red star on her chest and glowing red eyes. She is surrounded by intense, swirling orange and yellow energy, with several floating skulls in the background. A speech bubble at the top center contains the text "I JUST HAPPENED TO BRING ONE WITH ME." In the bottom left corner, a caption reads "NATALIA ROMANOVA. THE WAR WIDOW." The background is a dark, starry space.

I JUST
HAPPENED TO
BRING ONE
WITH ME.

NATALIA ROMANOVA.
THE WAR WIDOW.

29 STARBRAND REBORN PART 3
THE BATTLE FOR THE BRAND



OM2KA!
JASON!

THE RAVENSTARR MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON GALAXY.

SO.

WHAT ARE
YOU BOYS
IN FOR?

TEAR HER
STUPID METAL
HEAD OFF!

RIGHT.
FIGURED IT WAS
SOMETHING LAME.

YOU STOLE THE
HUBCAPS OFF
GLADIATOR'S
SPACE CADILLAC,
DIDN'T YOU?

THE WARWIDOW.
NATALIA ROMANOVA.

GAAAAGGH!!!

GRRRGH! WE WERE THE MOST WANTED OUTLAWS IN TWENTY-THREE SYSTEMS! WE'VE BURNED MORE WORLDS THAN YOUR PEOPLE EVEN KNOW EXIST! STUPID EARTHER!

WE'VE GOT 5,000 LIFE SENTENCES BETWEEN THE THREE OF US!

THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME THAT. I BELIEVE YOU. SO NOW I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.

IDEA OF WHAT, YOU--
GAAAGH!

KRAK

OF HOW MANY OF YOUR BONES I SHOULD BREAK. I TELL YOU, RIGHT NOW...

...I'M LEANING TOWARD ALL OF THEM.

THINK



GAAGH!

IT TOOK
SEVENTEEN
IMPERIAL
GUARDSMEN TO
DRAG ME INTO
THIS PRISON!

NO WAY
DOES *ONE* OF
WHATEVER THE
FLARK *YOU* ARE
BRING ME
DOWN!

SEVENTEEN. THAT'S
DISAPPOINTING. DON'T
YOU HAVE TO GO TO
SCHOOL FOR YEARS
TO BE A GUARDSMAN?

I'M EATING
YOU FOR DINNER!
METAL HIDE AND
ALL!

YOU'D THINK IN ALL
THAT SCHOOLING,
SOMEONE WOULD'VE
TAUGHT THEM...

...THE INTERSPECIES
IMPORTANCE OF
THE KNEECAP.

GRRRGH!



KISS...
KISS MY
FARGUT.

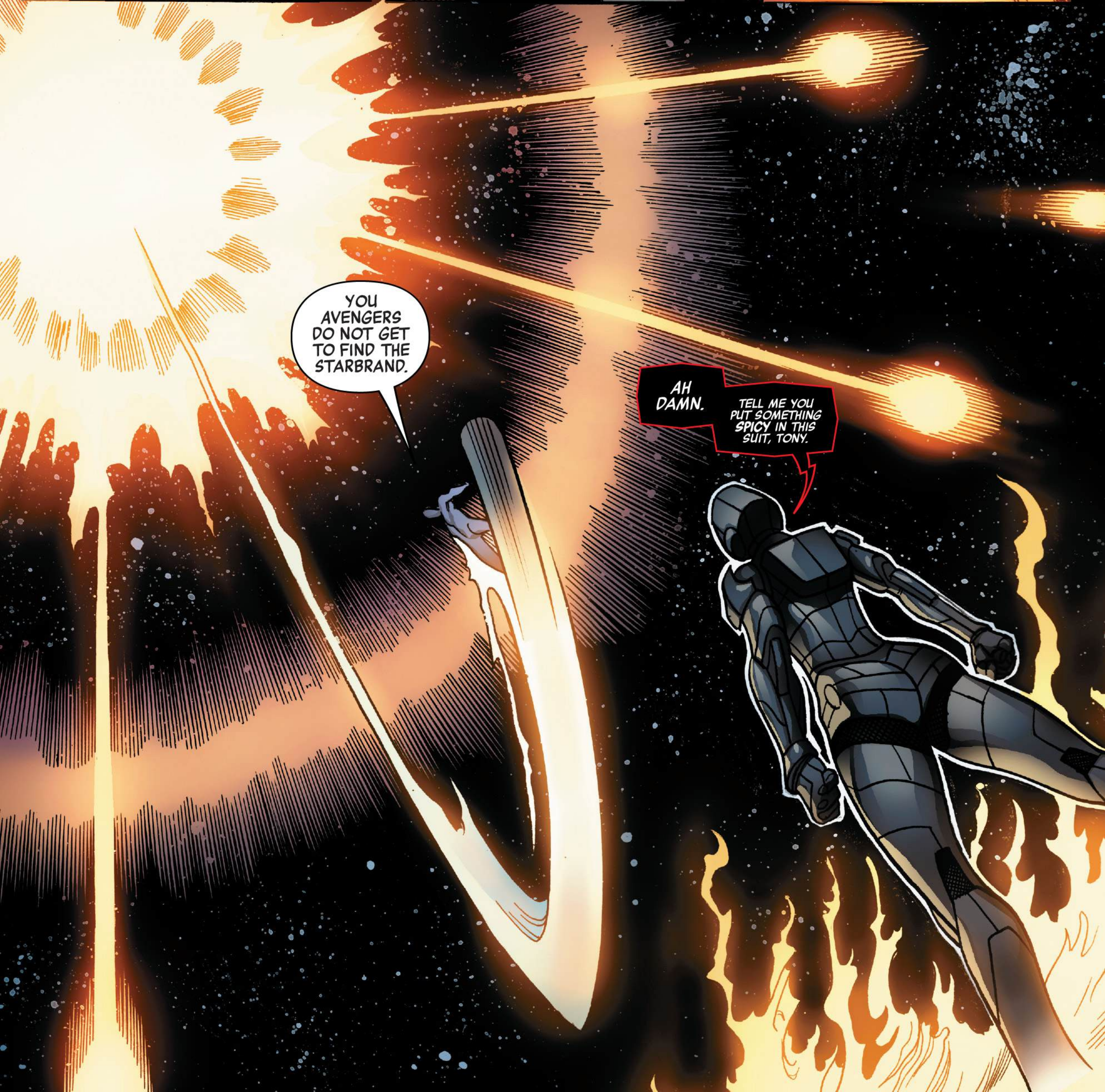
I'LL MAKE
YOU A DEAL. I
LET YOU KEEP THE
OTHER KNEE IN
RELATIVELY GOOD
WORKING
ORDER...

...IF YOU TELL
ME WHERE TO
FIND THE
STARBRAND.



HEH. OH, I'LL TELL
YOU THAT FOR **FREE**,
STUPID METAL EARTHER.
JUST SO I CAN SMELL
YOUR BURNED GUTS
STINKING UP THE
SPACEWAYS.

YOU CAN
FIND THE
STARBRAND
BY--



YOU
AVENGERS
DO NOT GET
TO FIND THE
STARBRAND.

AH
DAMN.

TELL ME YOU
PUT SOMETHING
SPICY IN THIS
SUIT, TONY.

BECAUSE YOU DO NOT HAVE THE WILL TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS, SURFER.

THOSE SORT OF ELEMENTARY GENERALIZATIONS HAVE NO PLACE OUT HERE AMONG THE WILD STARS.

PERSONALLY, I'VE NEVER HAD MUCH USE FOR THEM EITHER. I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, I THOUGHT YOU USED TO BE LESS OF AN @#%&.

I WAS A HERALD OF *GALACTUS*. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN CALL ME THAT HASN'T ALREADY BEEN SCREAMED AT ME IN EVERY LANGUAGE IN EXISTENCE.

AND SOME THAT NO LONGER ARE. BECAUSE I WATCHED THEM DIE.

WELL, I'M WEARING WAR MACHINE ARMOR DESIGNED BY TONY STARK. SO I SUPPOSE WE'VE BOTH PAID OUR DUES TO SOME GIANT EGOS.

WE'RE NOT ON OPPOSITE SIDES HERE, SURFER. AND I ASSURE YOU, I'VE ALWAYS HAD ALL THE WILL I'VE EVER--

UUGH!

YOUR HUMANITY BETRAYS YOU, WIDOW.

YOU CANNOT
HIDE IT BEHIND A MASK.
NOT FROM SOMEONE WHO
CAN COUNT THE SPECKS OF
STARDUST BLOWING IN
THE SPACEWINDS.

YOU WOULD
RISK WORLDS
BURNING. ALL TO
SAVE ONE HUMAN
LIFE.

HUMAN?

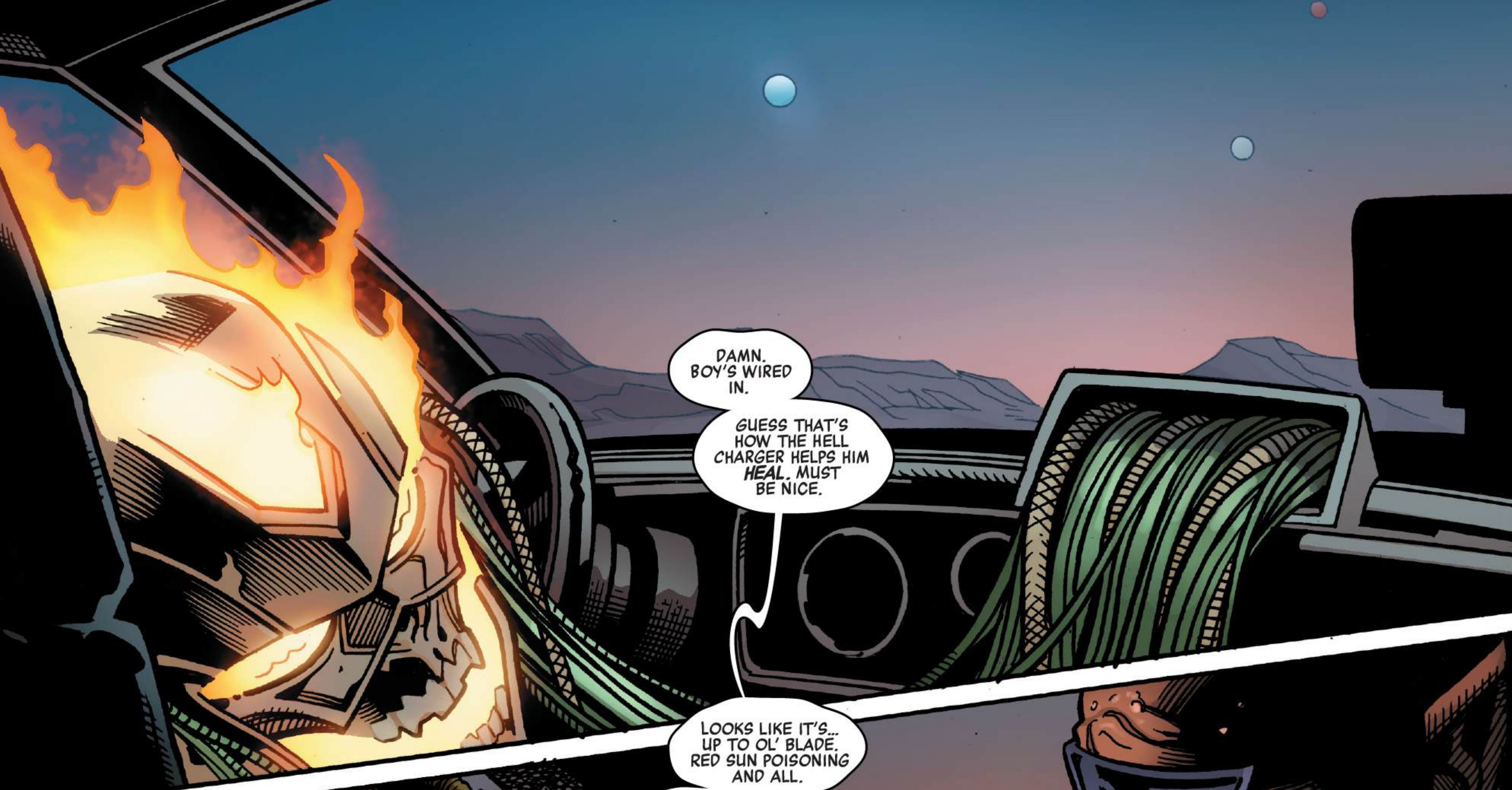
ARE YOU SAYING
THE STARBRAND IS
FROM EARTH?

SOON,
IT WON'T
MATTER.

GAAGH, THE
SUPER SURFER'S
BACK. WIDOW'S...
GONNA NEED
HELP.

GHOST RIDER...
YOUR HELLFIRE
SEEMED TO HURT HIM
BEFORE. MAYBE IF
YOU DRIVE OVER
THE GUY OR...

ROBBIE?



DAMN.
BOY'S WIRED
IN.

GUESS THAT'S
HOW THE HELL
CHARGER HELPS HIM
HEAL. MUST
BE NICE.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S...
UP TO OL' BLADE.
RED SUN POISONING
AND ALL.

IF I DIE
OUT HERE, I WILL
HAUNT THE DAMN
AVENGERS
FOREVER.

BOY-
THING,
WHERE'S MY
SWORD?



BOY-THING,
WHAT ARE
YOU...

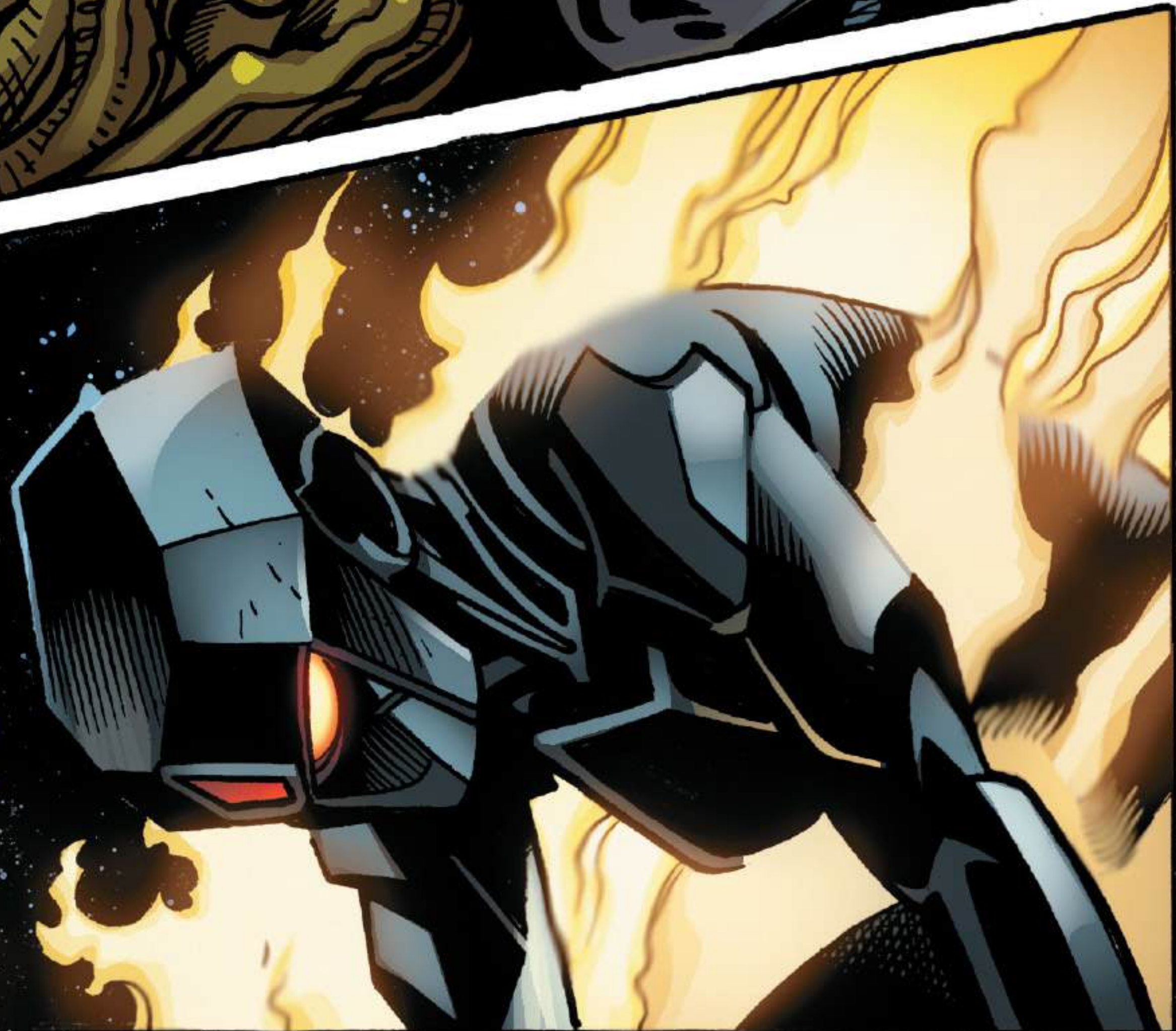
GAAAGH!



I DO NOT
WISH YOU PERMANENT
HARM, AVENGER. I HAVE
TREMENDOUS RESPECT AND
APPRECIATION FOR YOUR
PEOPLE'S PRIMITIVELY
HEARTFELT WAYS.

BUT THE
STARBRAND'S FATE
HAS BEEN DECIDED. FOR
THE GOOD OF THE
COSMOS, THIS REBIRTH
MUST NOT BE
ALLOWED.

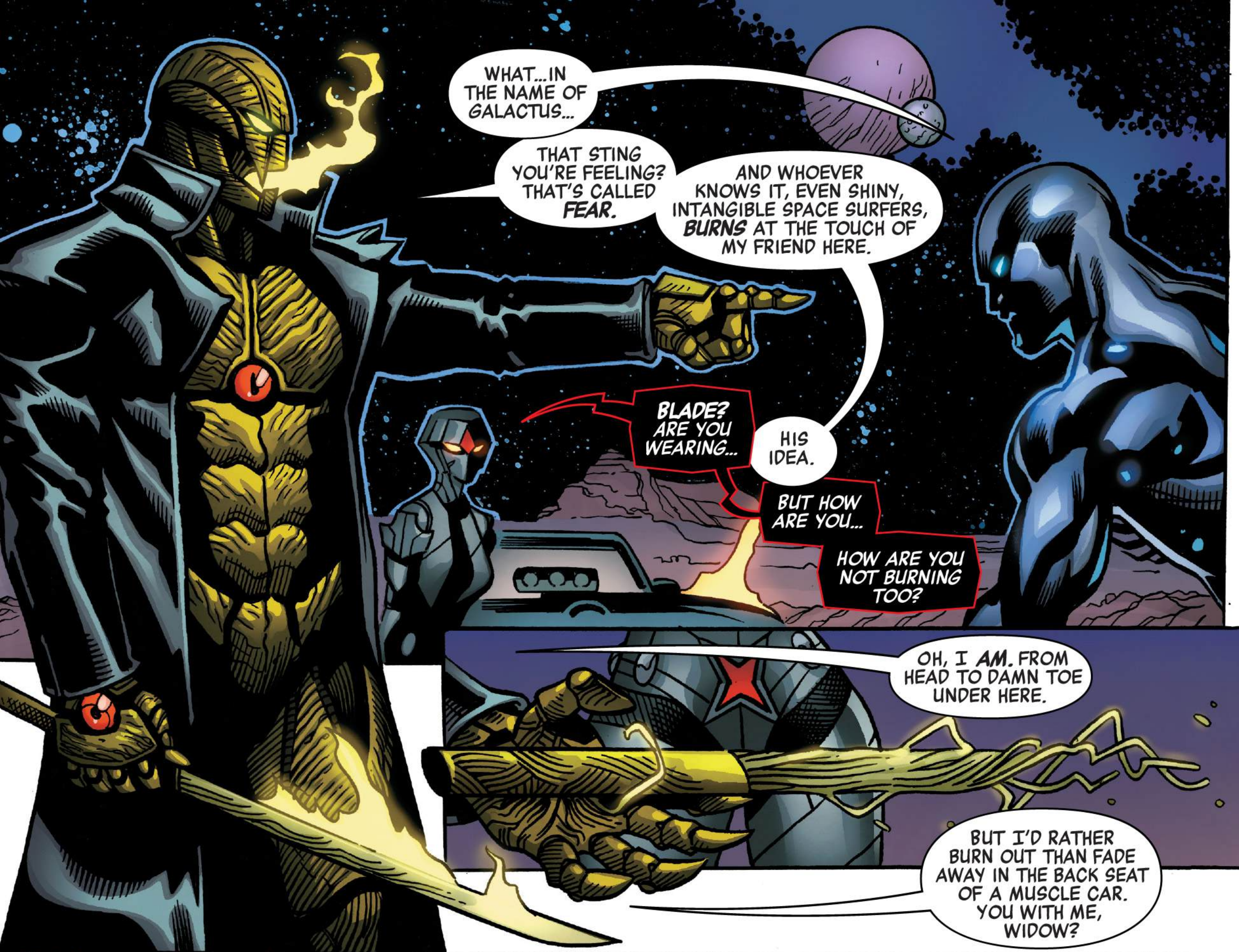
AND FOR
YOUR OWN GOOD,
YOU SHOULD ACCEPT
THE FUTILITY
OF...





AAARRGH!

WHO YOU CALLING HEARTFELT?



WHAT...IN
THE NAME OF
GALACTUS...

THAT STING
YOU'RE FEELING?
THAT'S CALLED
FEAR.

AND WHOEVER
KNOWS IT, EVEN SHINY,
INTANGIBLE SPACE SURFERS,
BURNS AT THE TOUCH OF
MY FRIEND HERE.

BLADE?
ARE YOU
WEARING...

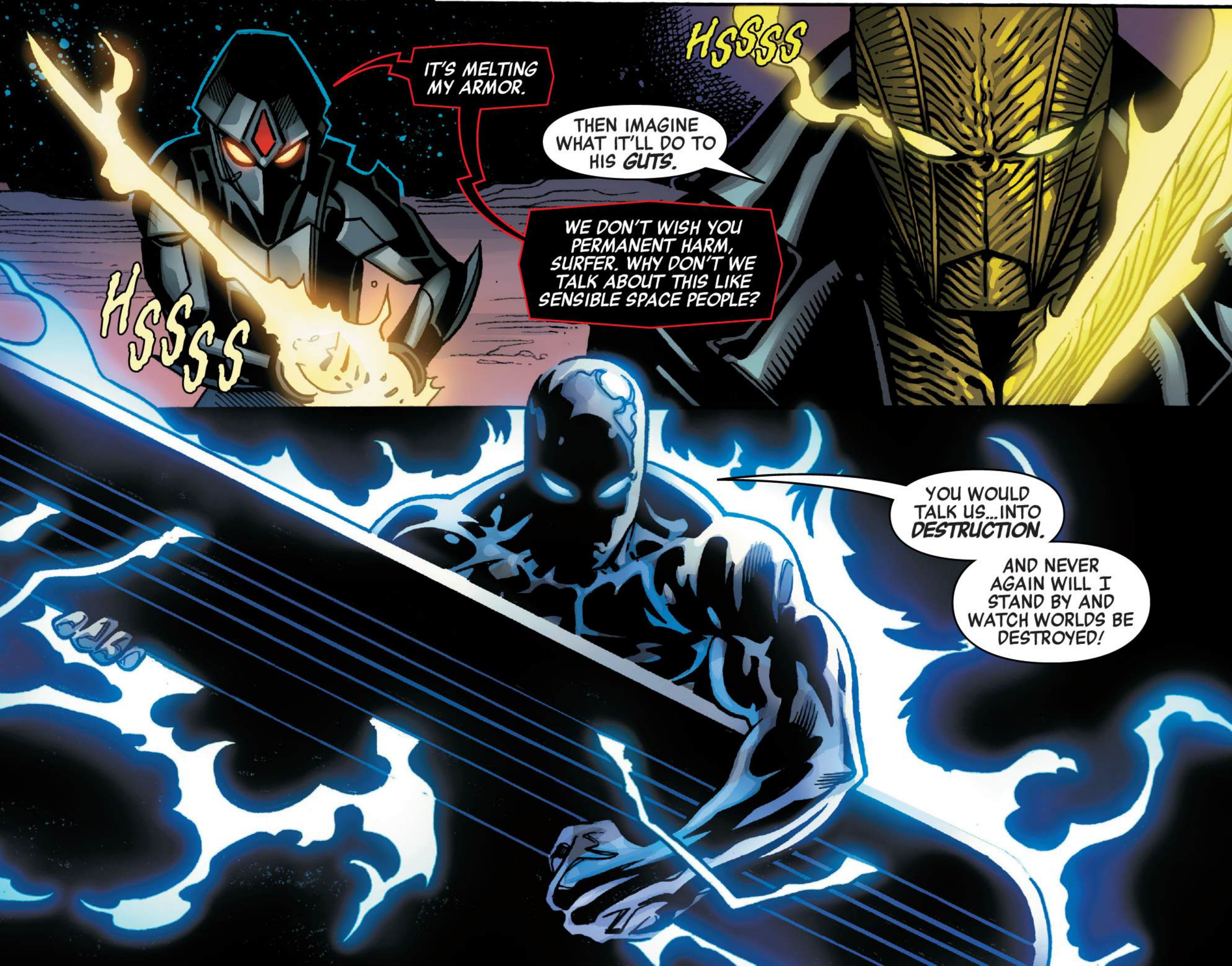
HIS
IDEA.

BUT HOW
ARE YOU...

HOW ARE YOU
NOT BURNING
TOO?

OH, I AM. FROM
HEAD TO DAMN TOE
UNDER HERE.

BUT I'D RATHER
BURN OUT THAN FADE
AWAY IN THE BACK SEAT
OF A MUSCLE CAR.
YOU WITH ME,
WIDOW?



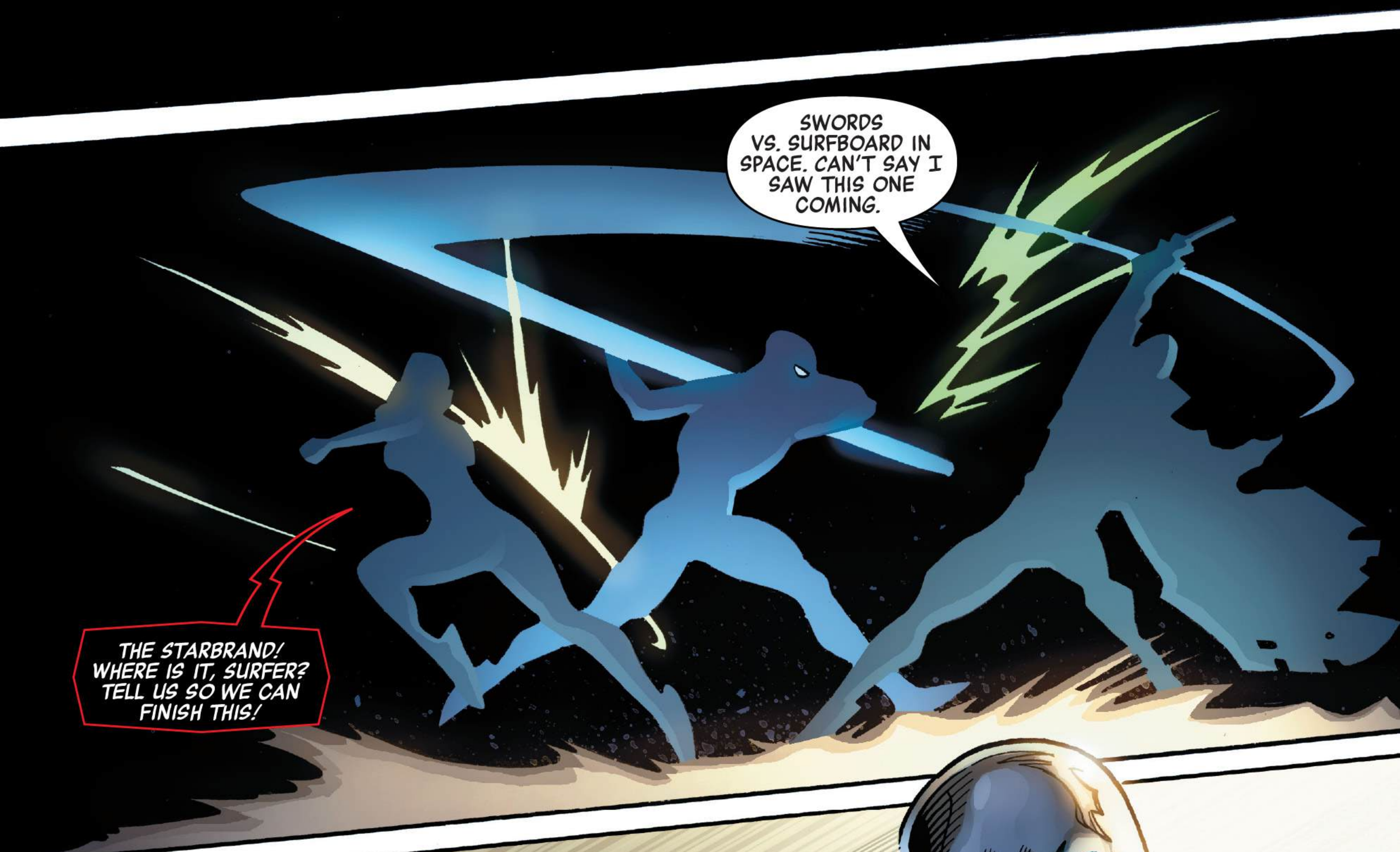
IT'S MELTING
MY ARMOR.

THEN IMAGINE
WHAT IT'LL DO TO
HIS **GUTS.**

WE DON'T WISH YOU
PERMANENT HARM,
SURFER. WHY DON'T WE
TALK ABOUT THIS LIKE
SENSIBLE SPACE PEOPLE?

YOU WOULD
TALK US...INTO
DESTRUCTION.

AND NEVER
AGAIN WILL I
STAND BY AND
WATCH WORLDS BE
DESTROYED!



SWORDS
VS. SURFBOARD IN
SPACE. CAN'T SAY I
SAW THIS ONE
COMING.

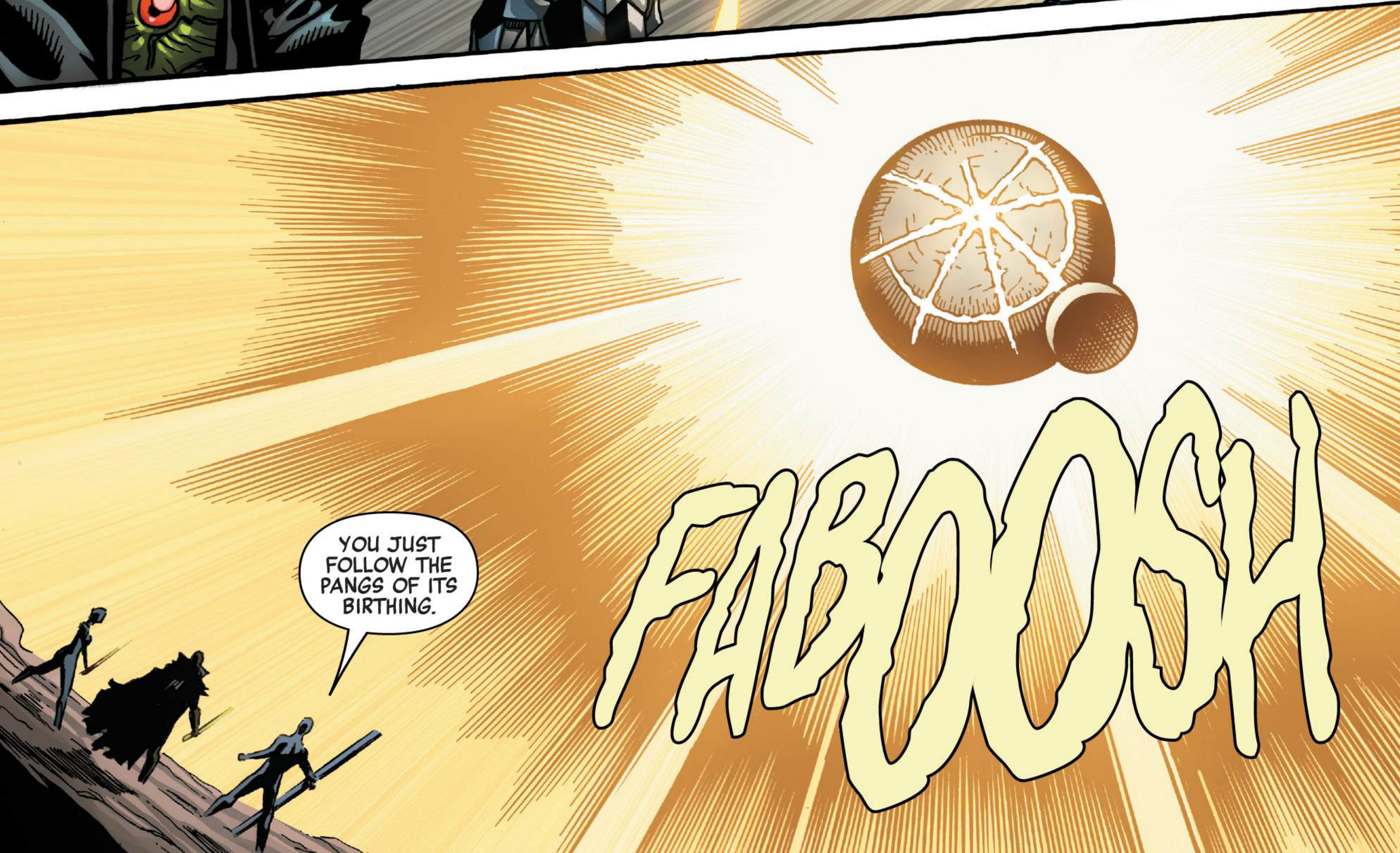
THE STARBRAND!
WHERE IS IT, SURFER?
TELL US SO WE CAN
FINISH THIS!



WHAT
THE...

THE
STARBRAND
IS NOT HARD
TO FIND.

HOLY
MOTHER
OF GOD.



YOU JUST
FOLLOW THE
PANGS OF ITS
BIRTHING.

FABOOOOSH

MEANWHILE.
A FEW LIGHT-YEARS AWAY.

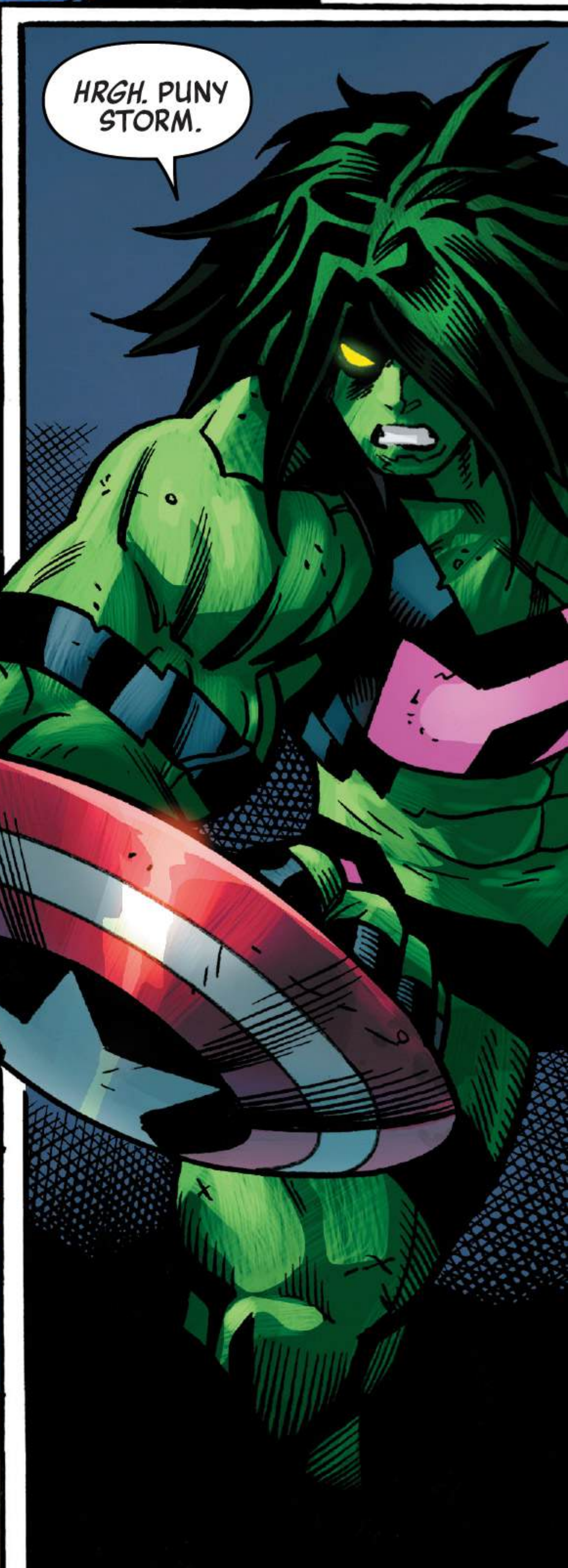
"THE STARBRAND...
SHOULD NEVER
HAVE EXISTED."

"THAT WOULD HAVE
SOLVED A RATHER LARGE
PROBLEM FOR THE ENTIRE
CIVILIZED COSMOS."

BECAUSE IT WOULD'VE
MEANT THE DOWNFALL
OF EARTH AND THE **BLOODY
RUIN** OF THE WRETCHED
COSMIC INFECTION KNOWN
AS **HUMANKIND**.

BUT IT'S
NEVER TOO LATE
TO CORRECT PAST
MISTAKES, NOW
IS IT, HULK?

RRRRRGGGH!!!



"OURS IS
BIGGER."

GGGGRRRGGGH!!!

THE HERALDS
OF GALACTUS. THE
SHI'AR. ALL THE BIG
COSMIC MUCKETY-
MUCKS WANNA GET
THEIR HANDS ON THE
STARBRAND.

WE HAVE NO
IDEA WHY IT'S
POPPED UP OUT HERE.
WE JUST KNOW IT'S
ONE OF EARTH'S
INHERENT DEFENSE
SYSTEMS.

SORTA
LIKE ME.

THE NEW
STARBRAND NEEDS
OUR HELP, I KNOW IT.
WHOEVER THEY ARE, THE
AVENGERS CAN HELP
THEM **CONTROL** THEIR
POWER. IT'S WHAT
WE DO.

"AT LEAST I
THINK IT IS."

CRRRSH

TOO
MANY...SPACE
STONES.

THOR. YOU'VE
GOTTA GET BACK
OUT THERE. YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE WHO
CAN SAVE THE
SHIP. YOU'RE...

YOU'RE THE **STRONGEST**
BROOD THERE IS.

THOR...
IS?

YEAH.
AND
IT'S TIME
TO **FEED**.

FEED?

THUNK



FEED!!!

"NO WONDER THE
SURFER DOESN'T
TRUST YOU AVENGERS
WITH THE STARBRAND."



YOU
CAN'T EVEN
BE TRUSTED
WITH A
THOR.

GAAARGH!

STAND DOWN,
AVENGER. YOU ARE
OUTSIDE YOUR DEPTHS
HERE. AND YOUR HEAT
TOLERANCE.

SURE THING. WHY
DON'T YOU TELL ME
TO *SMILE* MORE WHILE
YOU'RE AT IT,
FIRELORD?

ACTUALLY
THAT WOULDN'T
BE SUCH A BAD--

GAAAGH!

YOU TERRANS.
HOW MANY *WEAPONS*
DO YOU NEED? ISN'T
YOUR PLANET ALREADY
HEAVILY ARMED
ENOUGH?

WE DIDN'T
COME HERE TO START
A *WAR*. WE CAME TO STOP
A *PRISON RIOT*. BECAUSE
WE WERE CALLED BY
THE *SHI'AR*.

THE *SHI'AR*.
THE ONLY RACE
MORE WARLIKE
THAN YOURS.

SAYS THE
HERALD WITH THE
FIRE STICK!

YES,
I AM A
HERALD.

I HERALD THE
*DEATH OF THE
STARBRAND!* AND
THE SALVATION
OF US A--

GLUGH!

AND I
HERALD A
COSMIC HEADBUTT
FOR YOUR--



THAT'S IT.

WE'RE TOO LATE. THE BRAND HAS BEEN UNLEASHED.

HOLY HELL.

CAP, ARE YOU SEEING THIS?



HOW COULD I NOT? WE'VE REGAINED CONTROL OF THE SHIP AND ARE HEADED THERE NOW, CAROL-- UNLESS YOU NEED ASSISTANCE.

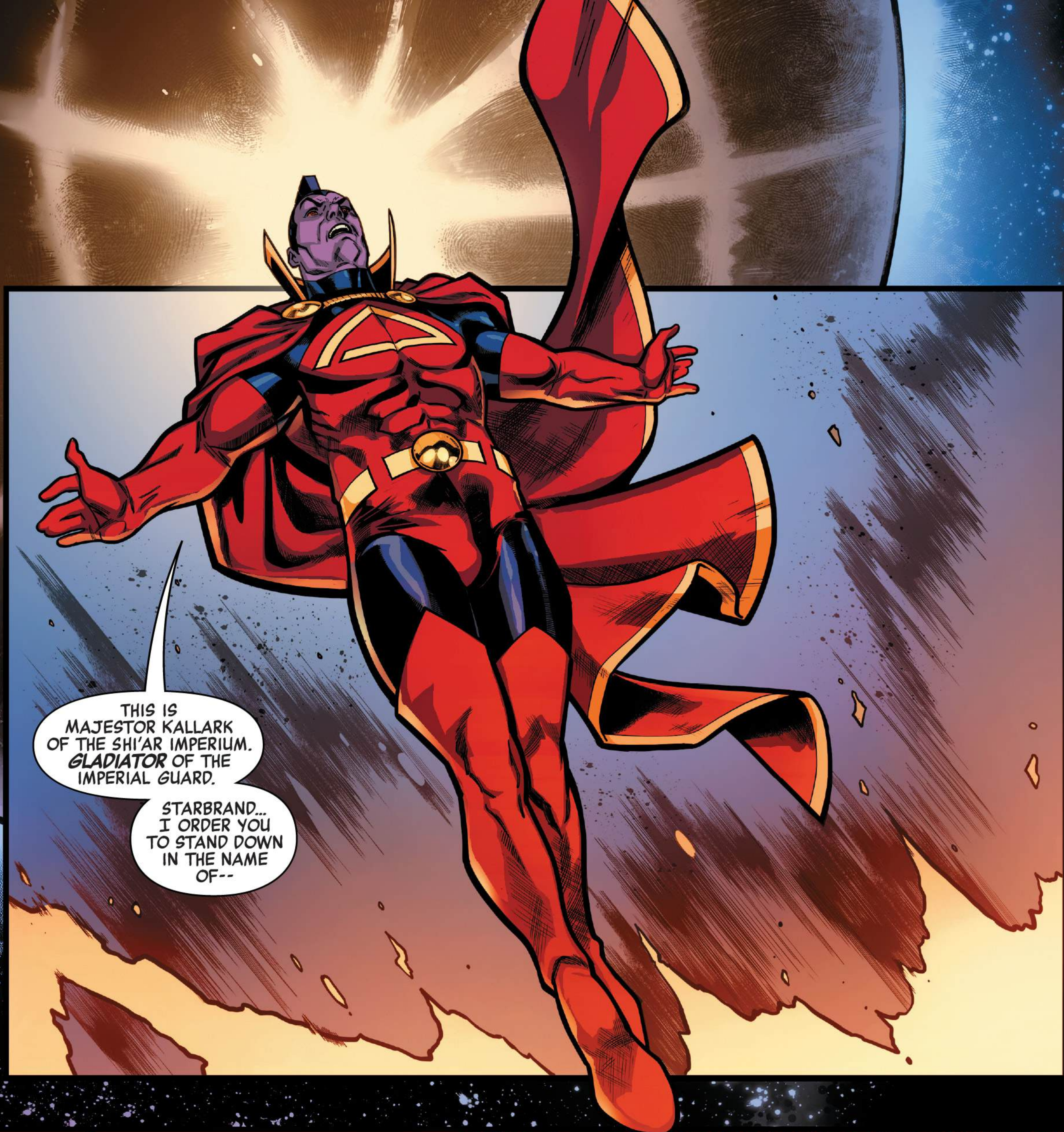
GO. I'LL CATCH UP. WHAT ABOUT TERRAX?

HE'LL LIKELY BEAT US THERE.

"BUT I DOUBT HE'LL BE CONSCIOUS."



AAAAARRRGH!!!



THIS IS
MAJESTOR KALLARK
OF THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM.
GLADIATOR OF THE
IMPERIAL GUARD.

STARBRAND...
I ORDER YOU
TO STAND DOWN
IN THE NAME
OF--



GRRRGGGH!!!

NO! STAY
BACK!

AAAARRRGGGH!!!



CONTROL
YOUR POWER. OR
I WILL CONTROL
IT FOR YOU.

I...CAN'T
HELP IT...THE
PAIN, I...



I DIDN'T
ASK FOR
THIS!

THIS POWER...
CAME OUT OF
NOWHERE, LIKE A
COMET...WHEN I WAS
ON THE TRANSPORT
SHIP. IT...

GAAAGH!



YOU...ARE A
PRISONER. IN
CONTROL OF ONE OF
THE MOST POWERFUL
WEAPONS IN THE
COSMOS.

THIS
CANNOT BE
ALLOWED.

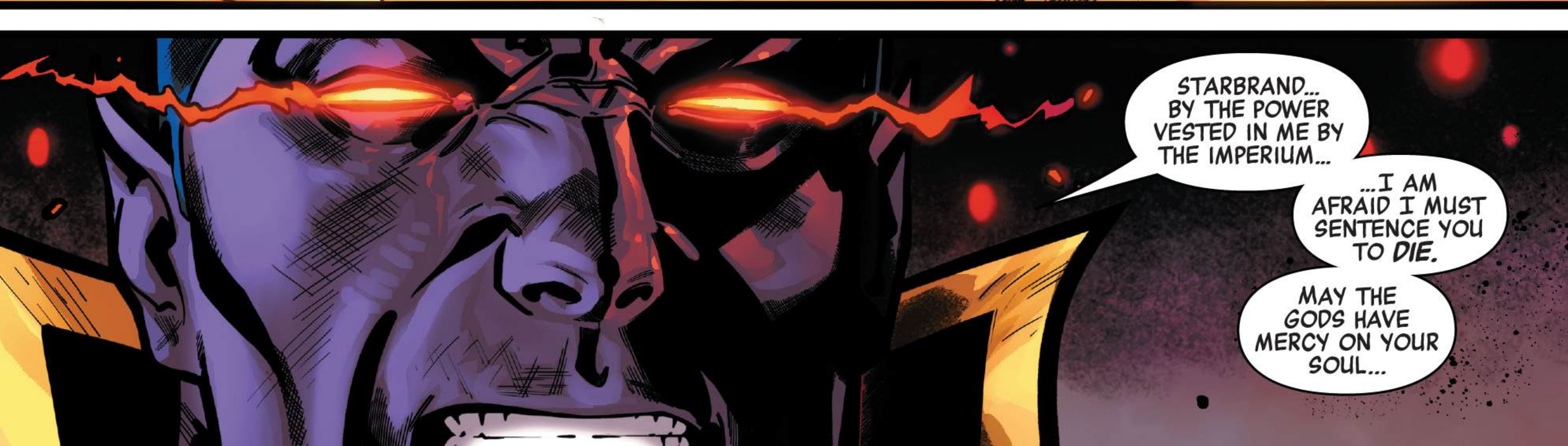
I NEVER
SHOULD'VE BEEN
HERE. I JUST WANT
OUT. I JUST WANT
AWAY FROM
THIS--

GAAAGH!



I DIDN'T
MEAN TO BURN
ALL THOSE PLANETS.
BUT WHEN THE PAIN
COMES...I JUST CAN'T...
I CAN'T CONTROL
WHAT...

GRRRGGGH!!!



STARBRAND...
BY THE POWER
VESTED IN ME BY
THE IMPERIUM...

...I AM
AFRAID I MUST
SENTENCE YOU
TO DIE.

MAY THE
GODS HAVE
MERCY ON YOUR
SOUL...



...AND
THAT
OF YOUR
UNBORN
CHILD.

NO.
YOU STAY
BACK.

YOU STAY
THE HELL AWAY
FROM ME OR I'LL
SET THIS ENTIRE
GALAXY ON
FIRE!

THE
STARBRAND
WILL KILL
YOU ALL!

30 STARBRAND REBORN PART 4
NATIVITY IN THE STARS



EARTH.
THE NORTH POLE.
AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.

A
PREGNANT
WOMAN.

THE *STARBRAND*
HAD BONDED WITH A
PREGNANT EARTH WOMAN.
DEEP INSIDE A SHI'AR
PRISON. AND SHE WAS
IN LABOR.

THE SHI'AR
WERE THE FIRST
TO FIND HER?

GLADIATOR
WAS, YES.

I CAN
IMAGINE
HOW THAT
WENT.

IF YOU'RE
IMAGINING THAT
HE WAS READY TO
KILL HER, YOU'D
BE RIGHT,
T'CHALLA.

THE SHI'AR
HAVE A LONG
HISTORY WITH WEAPONS
OF COSMIC DESTRUCTION.
AND THEY ARE NOTHING
IF NOT BRUTALLY EFFICIENT
WHEN IT COMES TO
DEALING WITH THOSE
THEY CONSIDER...
UNDESIRABLE.

ALL I KNOW
IS IT WAS THE
SHI'AR WHO CALLED
US FOR HELP WHEN THEIR
MAJESTOR NEEDED
RESCUING. SO THAT'S
WHAT WE TRIED
TO DO.

"RESCUE
GLADIATOR..."

LEAVE
ME THE HELL
ALONE!

EARLIER.
SHI'AR-CONTROLLED SPACE.
THE RAVENSTARR PRISON GALAXY.

"...FROM
HIMSELF.

I WON'T
LET YOU HURT
MY BABY!

I OFFER
YOU THE FORMAL
SYMPATHIES OF THE
SHI'AR IMPERIUM,
MADAM, BUT THERE
IS NO OTHER
WAY!

THE
STARBRAND
IS FAR TOO
POWERFUL A
PLANET-KILLER TO
BE ALLOWED
TO--



RRRRRRGGH!!!

WHAT...IN
THE NAME OF
SHARRA AND
K'YTHRI...



"IT WAS
DIRTY WORK."

HRRRRRGH!!!

GAARCH!

SURFER,
FIRELORD, IF YOU
CAN HEAR ME, THIS
IS **TERRAX**. I'VE
FOUND THE STAR
BOMB.

AAARRGGH!!!

DISABLING
IT NOW.



URRGH!
BY THE BLOODY
GUTS OF
GALACTUS!

AVENGERS,
I HAVE EYES
ON THE
STARBRAND.

THIS JUST
GOT A **WHOLE** LOT
MORE COMPLICATED
THAN WE EVER
IMAGINED.

IT
DIDN'T.

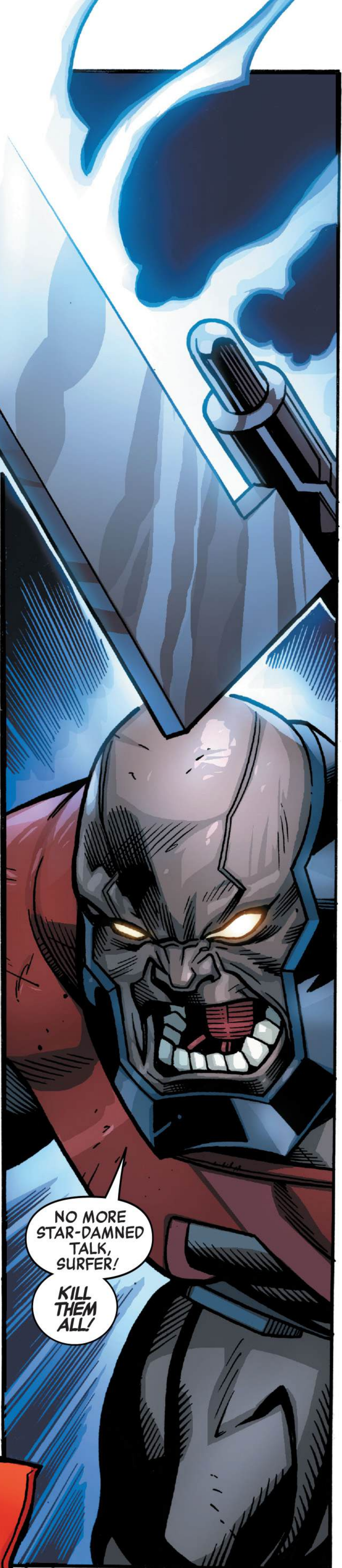


IT'S AS
SIMPLE AS CAN
BE. THE **HERALDS**
HAVE COME. AND WE
KNOW WHAT IT MEANS
TO WEIGH THE LIFE
AND DEATH OF
WORLDS.

LEAVE
THIS TO US,
EARTHER.

THE BEARER
OF THE BRAND...
IS WITH **CHILD**?

FIRELORD,
TERRAX--WE
SHOULD
DISCUSS THIS...
BEFORE...



NO MORE
STAR-DAMNED
TALK,
SURFER!

**KILL
THEM
ALL!**

HEY, DID
SOMEBODY SAY
THEY WERE LOOKING
FOR A RIDE HOME?

GET THE
STARBRAND ON
BOARD THE *HELL
CHARGER*, AND I'LL
GET HER OUT
OF HERE!

PRETTY SURE
I CAN FIND MY WAY
BACK TO EARTH.

CAN'T
I?

"MY VERY
EDUCATED MOTHER
JUST SERVED US
NACHOS."

UH, WHERE
ARE WE AT RIGHT
NOW IN RELATION
TO NACHOS?

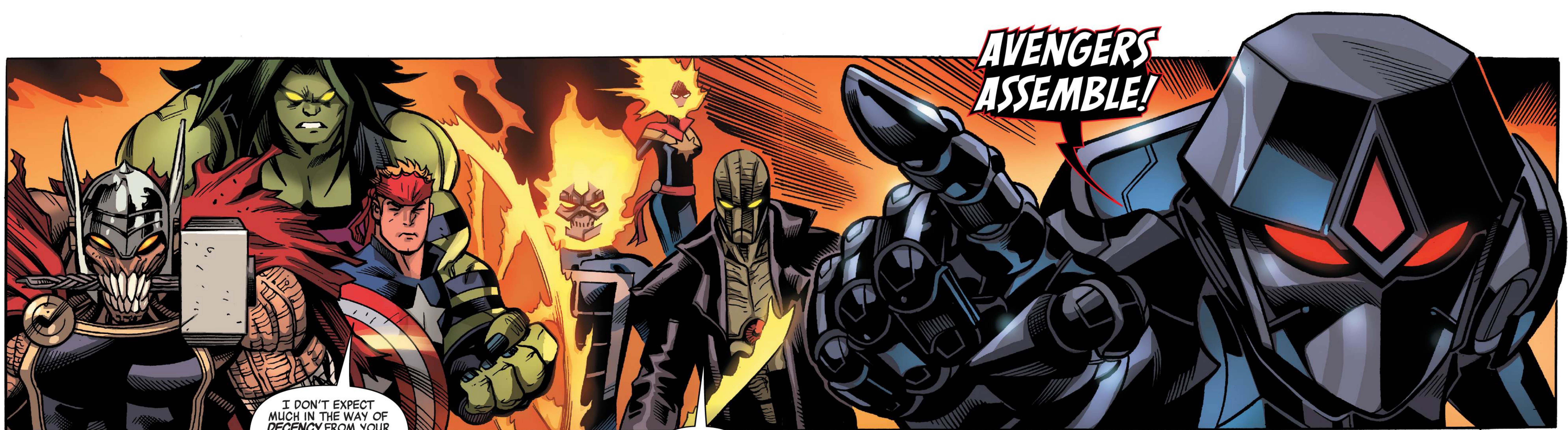
THE STARBRAND CAN'T BE SAFELY MOVED.
JUDGING BY THE FIRE SHE'S BLASTING OUT
EVERY TIME SHE SCREAMS, I'D SAY
HER CONTRACTIONS ARE ONLY A
COUPLE MINUTES APART.

AVENGERS,
THIS ISN'T
JUST A BATTLE
FOR A SPACE
WEAPON!

IT'S A
COSMIC MEDICAL
EMERGENCY.

WE DEAL
WITH BOTH THE
SAME WAY. THE
WAY WE TRAIN
FOR.

RIGHT, YOU
HEARD THE
CAPTAIN. NOW
HEAR THIS.



AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!

I DON'T EXPECT
MUCH IN THE WAY OF
DECENCY FROM YOUR
FRIENDS THERE, SURFER,
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE
I HAVE TO SAY THIS
TO YOU.

NO ONE
COMES NEAR THE
WOMAN WHO'S ABOUT TO
GIVE *BIRTH*. HER SAFETY
IS OUR PRIMARY
CONCERN.

YEAH,
BUT *YOURS*
SURE ISN'T.



THE
CAPTAIN...
IS RIGHT. WE
MUST...



NO! THE HOST
AND THE CHILD ARE
ALREADY DEAD! THEY
DIED THE MOMENT
THE STARBRAND
INFECTED THEM!

AND WE'LL
ALL BE DEAD TOO
IF WE DO NOT
FINISH THIS! IF WE DO NOT
FINISH *HER*!



STEVE...

GO! I'LL
STAY WITH THE
MOTHER!



HULK, DON'T
LET ANYONE
NEAR US! I'LL
DO WHAT I
CAN!

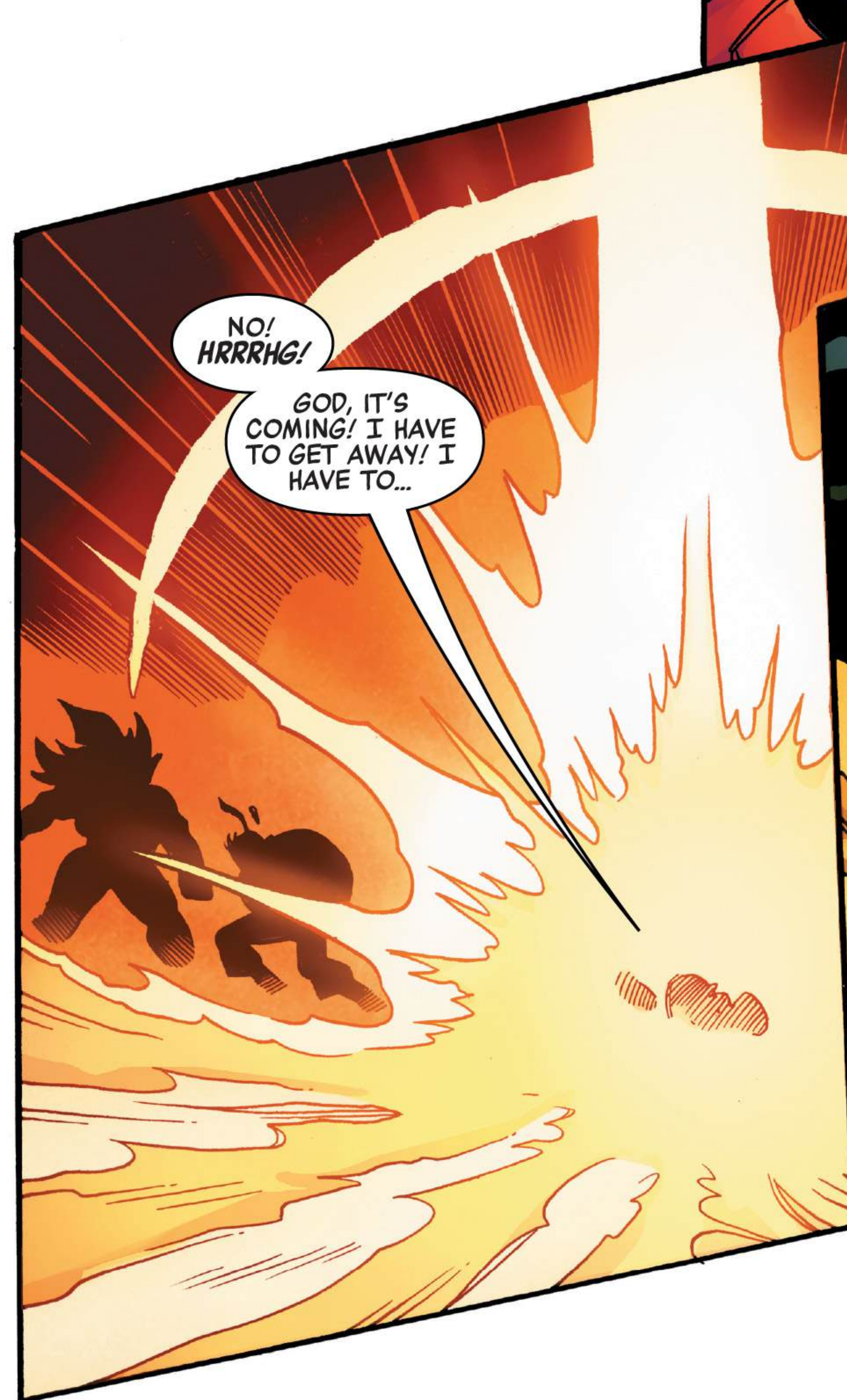
GAAAAAARRRRGH!!!



MA'AM?

STAY
BACK!

I'M CAPTAIN
AMERICA OF THE
AVENGERS. I'D LIKE
TO HELP YOU, IF
YOU'LL--



NO!
HRRRHG!

GOD, IT'S
COMING! I HAVE
TO GET AWAY! I
HAVE TO...



WE.

CAN
HELP.



HELP YOU.
CONTROL.

RELAX.

BREATHE.

PLEASE...
I NEVER ASKED
FOR THIS. JUST DON'T
LET ANYTHING HAPPEN...
TO MY...MY SWEET
BABY...

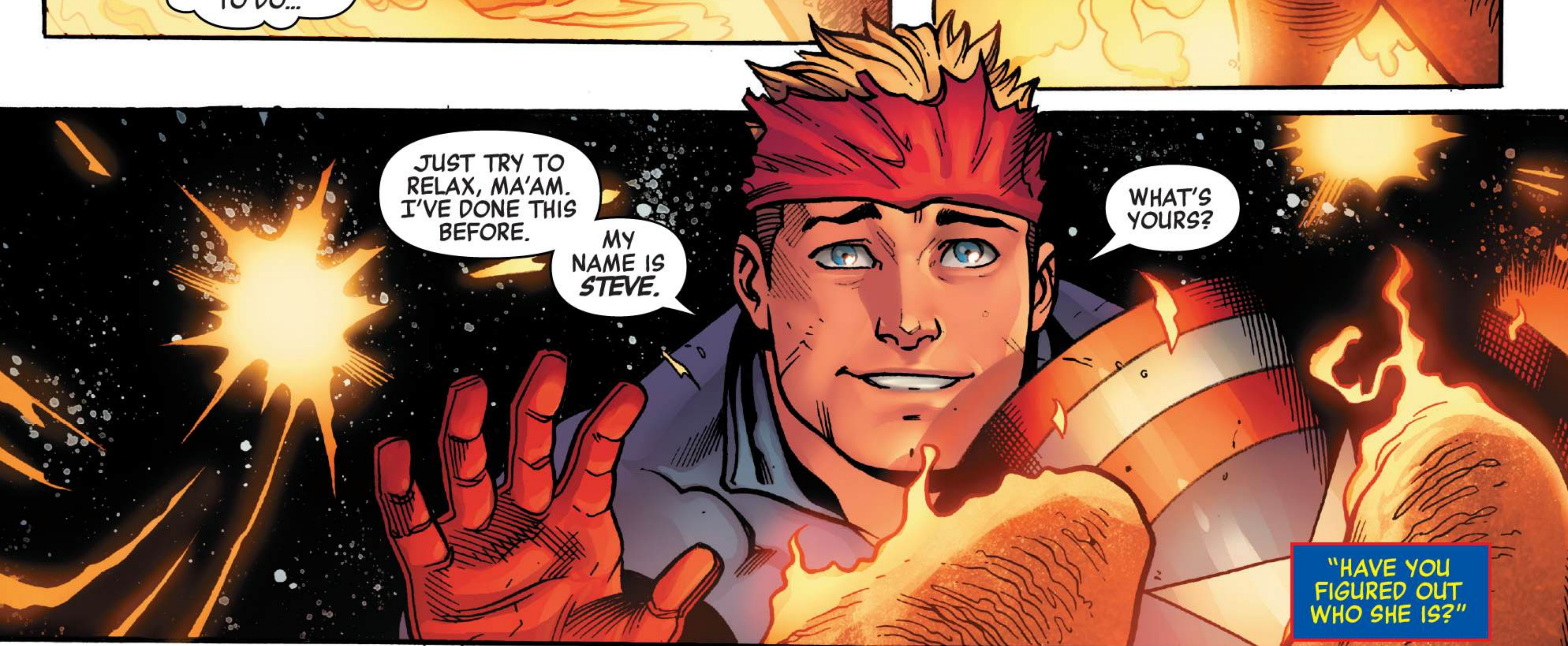
ABSORBING
THE STARBRAND
ENERGY AS MUCH
AS I CAN. SO NOW
ALL CAP HAS
TO DO...



...IS DELIVER
A BABY. FROM
A MOTHER WHO'S
ON FIRE. IN THE MIDST
OF A COSMIC WAR
ZONE. INSIDE A
SPACE PRISON.

WITH
NOTHING BUT
A **SHIELD**.

GOOD THING
HE'S **CAPTAIN
AMERICA**. HE'S
PROBABLY DONE
THIS BEFORE.



JUST TRY TO
RELAX, MA'AM.
I'VE DONE THIS
BEFORE.

MY
NAME IS
STEVE.

WHAT'S
YOURS?

"HAVE YOU
FIGURED OUT
WHO SHE IS?"



NOW.

THE AGENTS
OF WAKANDA
PIECED IT
TOGETHER.

HER NAME
IS **SUZANNE
SELBY**. FROM
KANSAS.

KANSAS?
HOW THE HELL
DID SHE WIND UP
IN A SHI'AR
PRISON?



"IT STARTED WHEN ROXXON CLOSED THE LIMESTONE PLANT IN KANSAS CITY WHERE SHE'D WORKED FOR FIFTEEN YEARS. MOVED IT TO MADRIPOOR.

"SHE WAS PREGNANT, OUT OF WORK. BOYFRIEND HEARD ABOUT A JOB OPPORTUNITY SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY.

"VERY FAR AWAY.

"THEY WERE RECRUITED BY *SPACE COYOTES*. EX-S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS FLYING TWENTY-YEAR-OLD SKRULL DROPSHIPS.

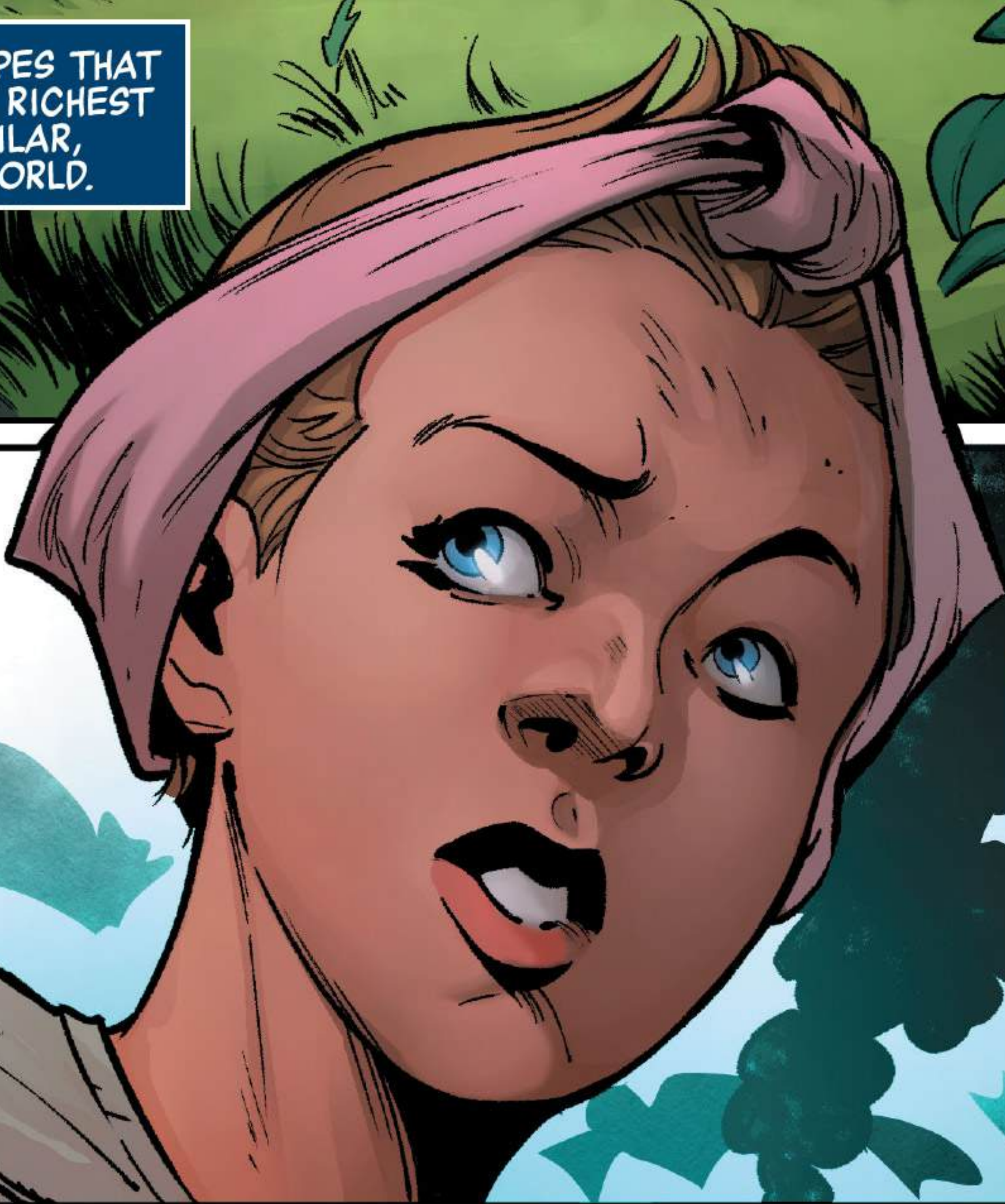


"THEY WERE SMUGGLED INTO SHI'AR-CONTROLLED TERRITORY, ALONG WITH *MIGRANT WORKERS* FROM DOZENS OF PLANETS.

"THEY PICKED THE GRAPES THAT BECAME WINE ON THE RICHEST TABLES OF CHANDILAR, THE SHI'AR HOMELAND.

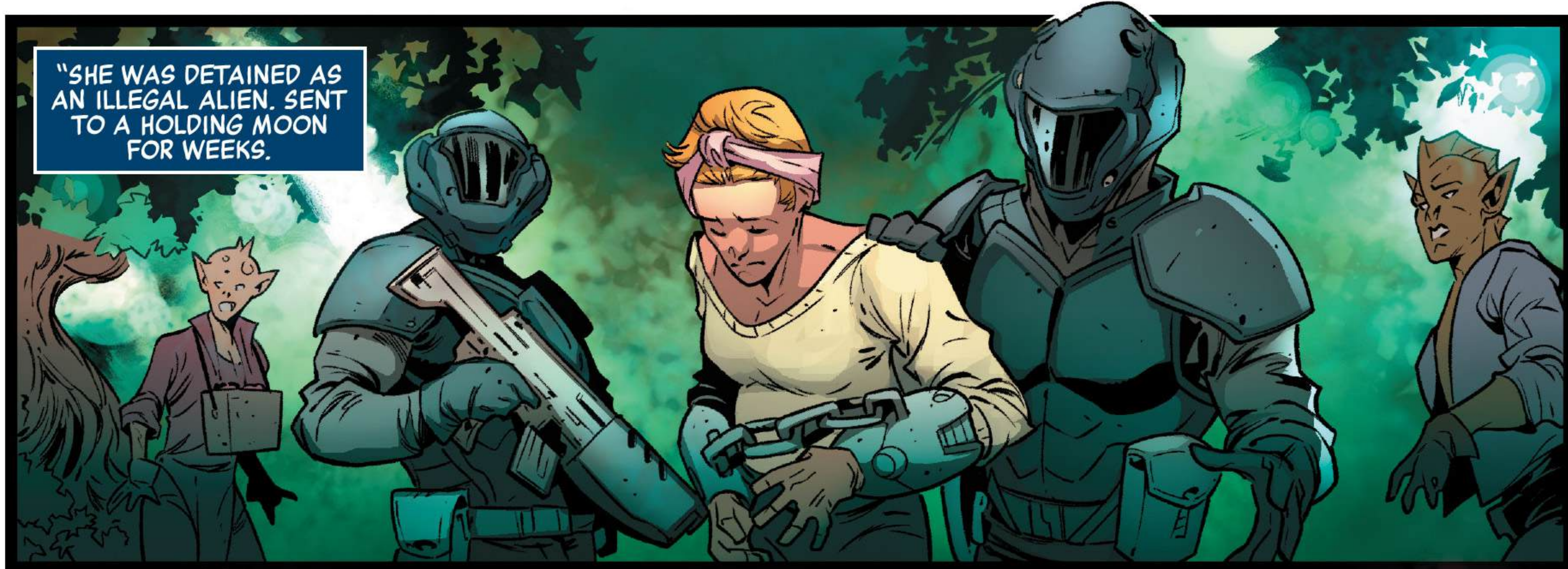
"BUT THEY WERE BARELY MAKING ENOUGH TO FEED THEMSELVES, LET ALONE PAY FOR THEIR WAY BACK HOME.

"SUZANNE AND THE BOYFRIEND BECAME SEPARATED SOMEWHERE IN THE REIGARRT SYSTEM.

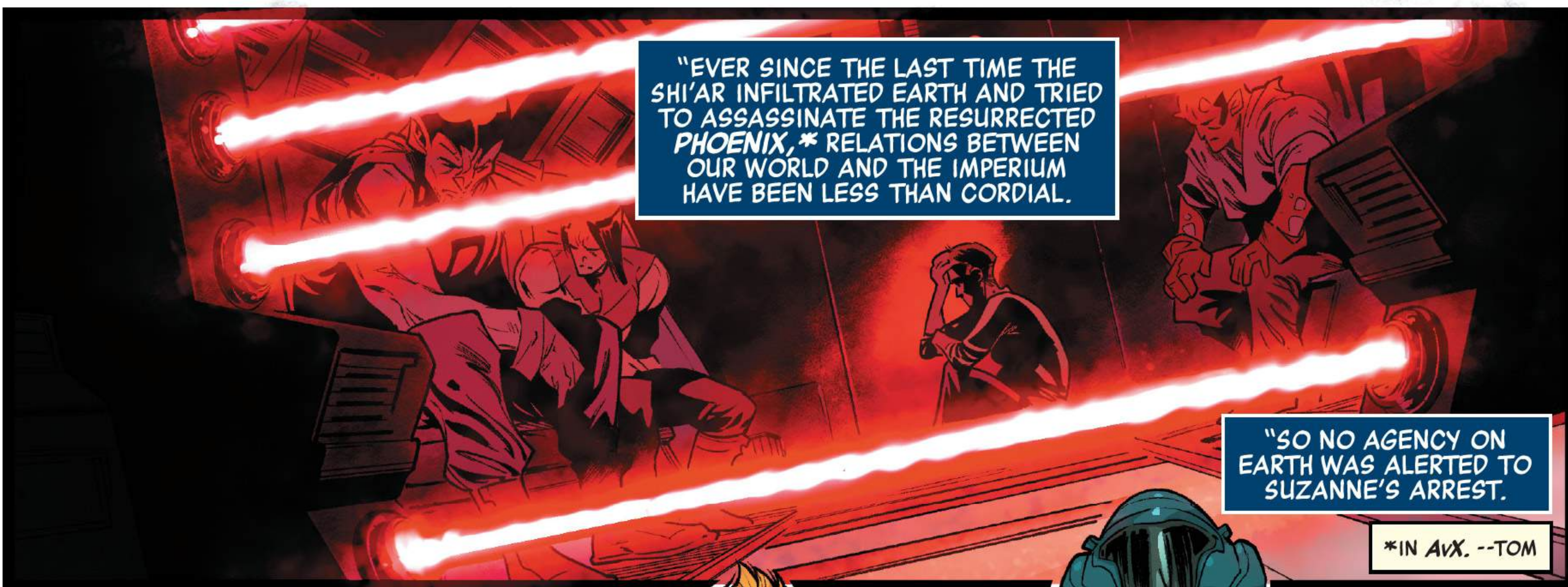


"SHE WAS PICKING KRAWBERRIES FOR THREE IMPERIAL CREDITS A DAY...

"...WHEN THE SHI'AR *BORDER PATROL* SWEEPED THROUGH.



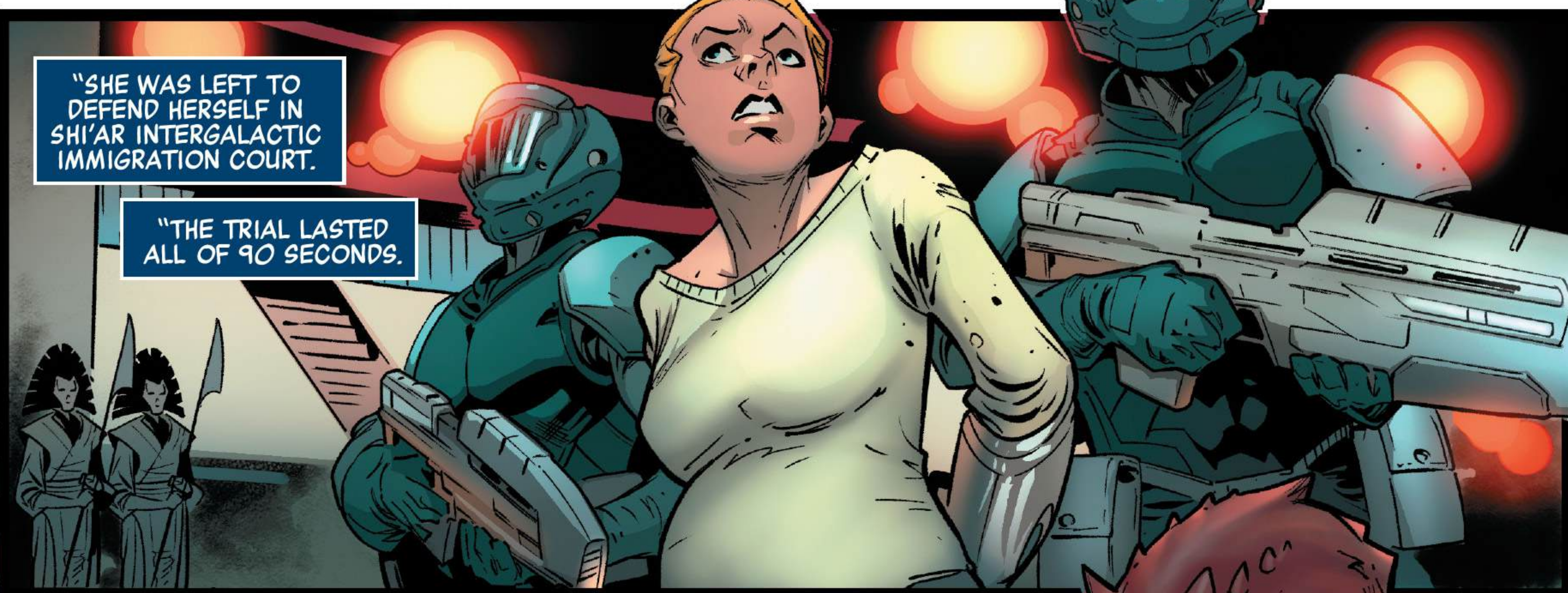
"SHE WAS DETAINED AS AN ILLEGAL ALIEN. SENT TO A HOLDING MOON FOR WEEKS.



"EVER SINCE THE LAST TIME THE SHI'AR INFILTRATED EARTH AND TRIED TO ASSASSINATE THE RESURRECTED PHOENIX,* RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND THE IMPERIUM HAVE BEEN LESS THAN CORDIAL.

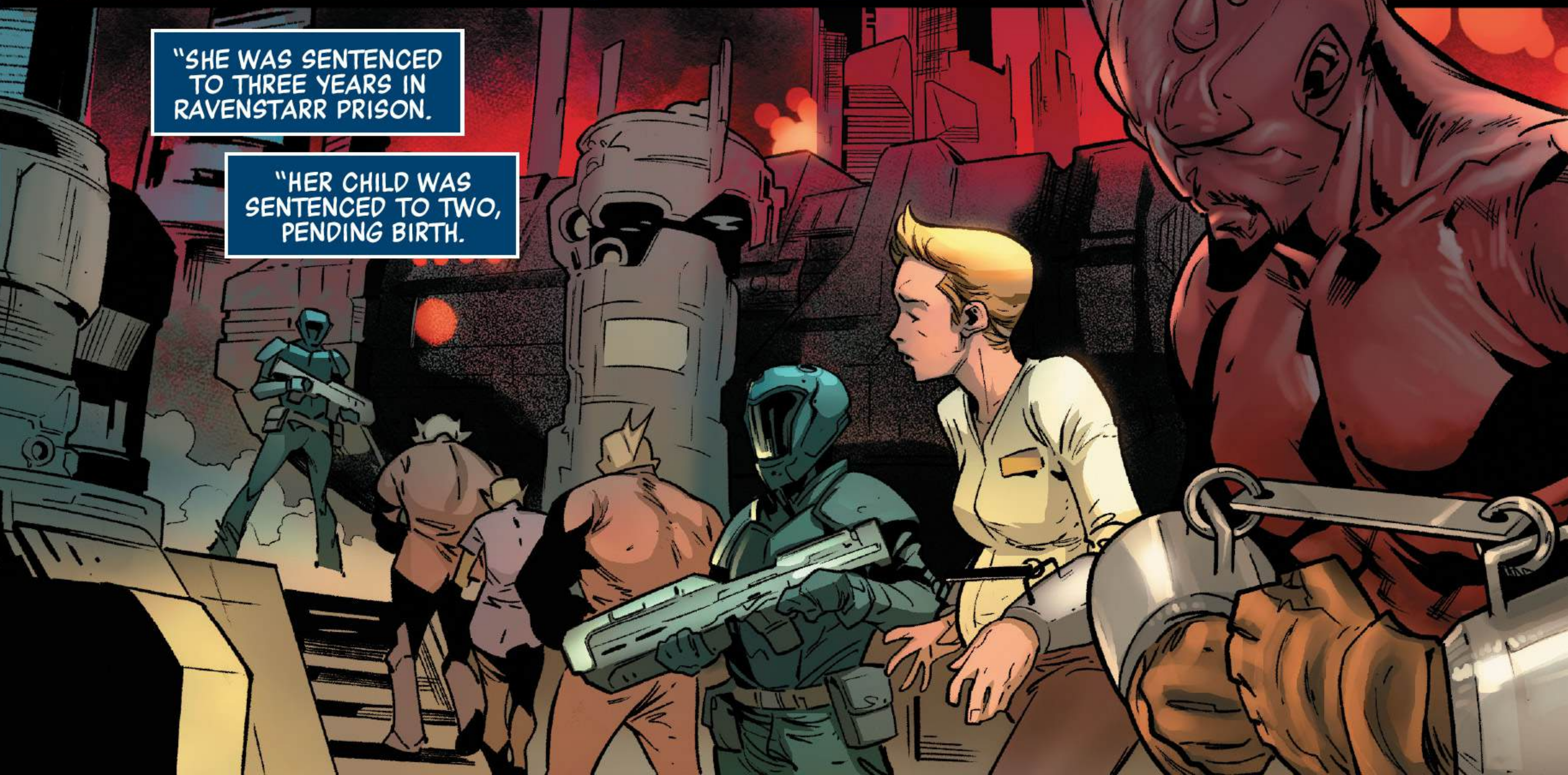
"SO NO AGENCY ON EARTH WAS ALERTED TO SUZANNE'S ARREST.

*IN AVX. --TOM



"SHE WAS LEFT TO DEFEND HERSELF IN SHI'AR INTERGALACTIC IMMIGRATION COURT.

"THE TRIAL LASTED ALL OF 90 SECONDS.



"SHE WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN RAVENSTARR PRISON.

"HER CHILD WAS SENTENCED TO TWO, PENDING BIRTH.



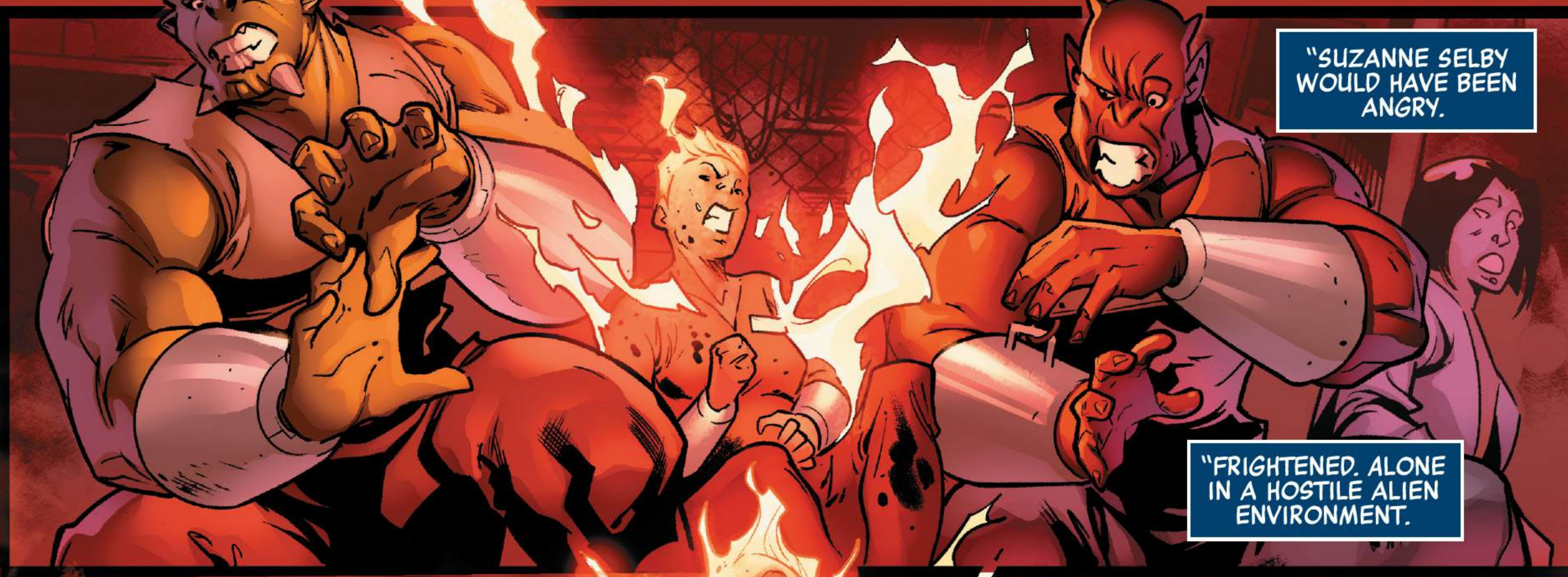
"FROM WHAT WE CAN ASCERTAIN FROM THE SHI'AR SECURITY SERVERS WE'VE HACKED, SHE WAS ON BOARD AN AUTOMATED SHUTTLE, BEING TRANSPORTED INTO THE PRISON WITH OTHER NEW INMATES..."

"...WHEN IT HAPPENED."



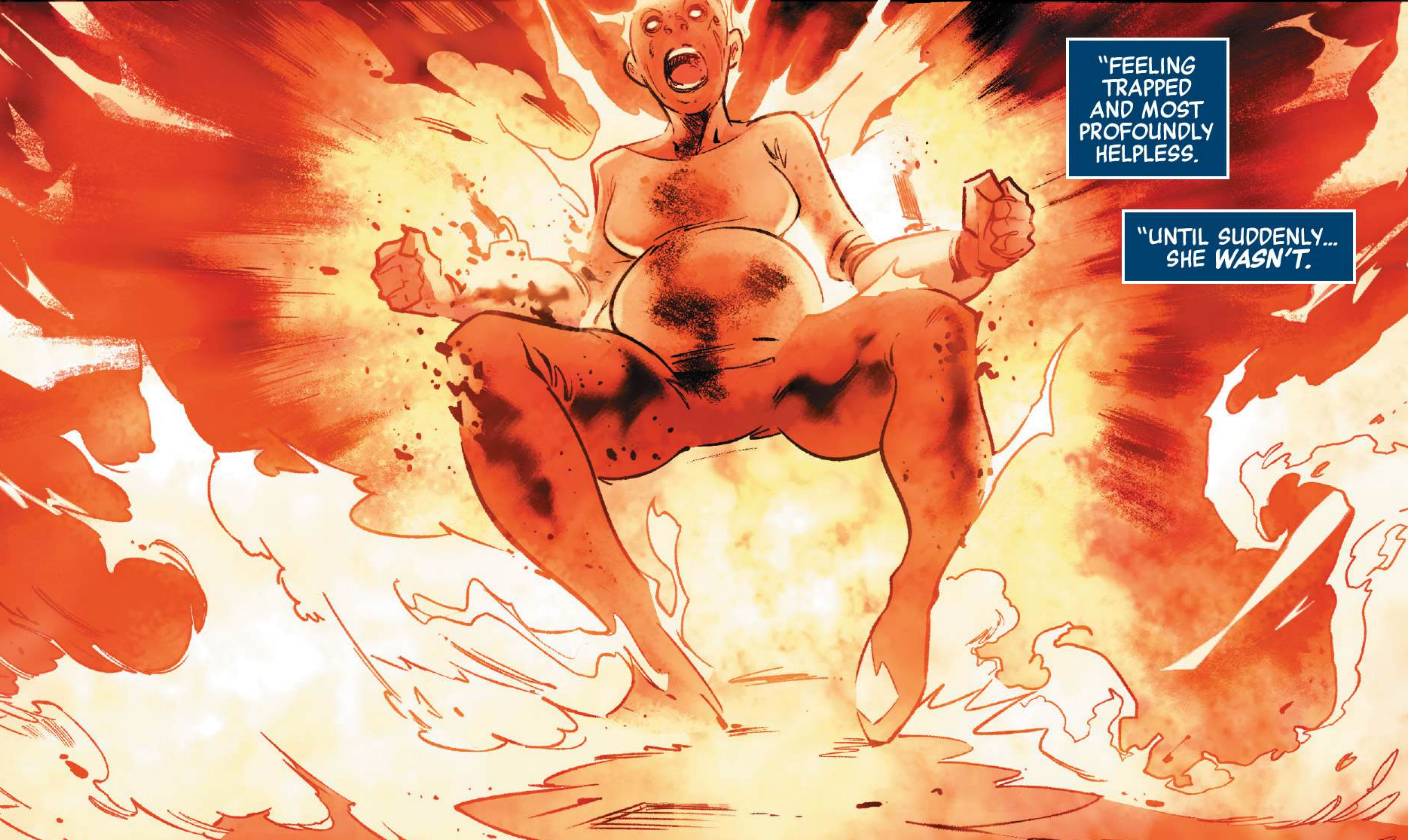
"THERE IS NO COSMIC CONSENSUS ON WHAT GUIDING FORCE IS BEHIND THE STARBRAND. PERHAPS THE EARTH ITSELF."

"THE PROCESS BY WHICH A HOST IS CHOSEN IS AT PRESENT UNKNOWN."



"SUZANNE SELBY WOULD HAVE BEEN ANGRY."

"FRIGHTENED. ALONE IN A HOSTILE ALIEN ENVIRONMENT."



"FEELING TRAPPED AND MOST PROFOUNDLY HELPLESS."

"UNTIL SUDDENLY... SHE WASN'T."

"THE RESULTING PATH OF
DESTRUCTION SHE CARVED
THROUGH THE PRISON..."

"...THE TRAIL OF
BURNED AND
OBLITERATED
WORLDS..."

"...I DON'T BELIEVE
IT WAS INTENTIONAL
ON HER PART.

"SHE WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY,
TO CONTROL A POWER SHE DIDN'T
ASK FOR AND COULDN'T
POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND..."

"...A POWER THAT EXISTS
ONLY TO PROTECT ITS
HOST AND ITS HOMEWORLD
FROM ALIEN THREATS.

"AND TO TOP IT
OFF, SHE WAS GOING
INTO *LABOR*."

"AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED,
AFTER EVERYTHING SHE'D BEEN
THROUGH...THE *NEW*
STARBRAND SHOWED RATHER
REMARKABLE *CONSTRAINT*."



"GODS HELP US ALL IF SHE HADN'T."

HRRRAAAAAAGGGH!!!

EARLIER...



DON'T BE A FOOL, AVENGERS! I'M NOT A MONSTER! MY HEART **BLEEDS** FOR THIS POOR PEASANT!

IT'S THE STARBRAND THAT'S THE ENEMY! IT'S THE STARBRAND THAT MUST BE STOPPED!

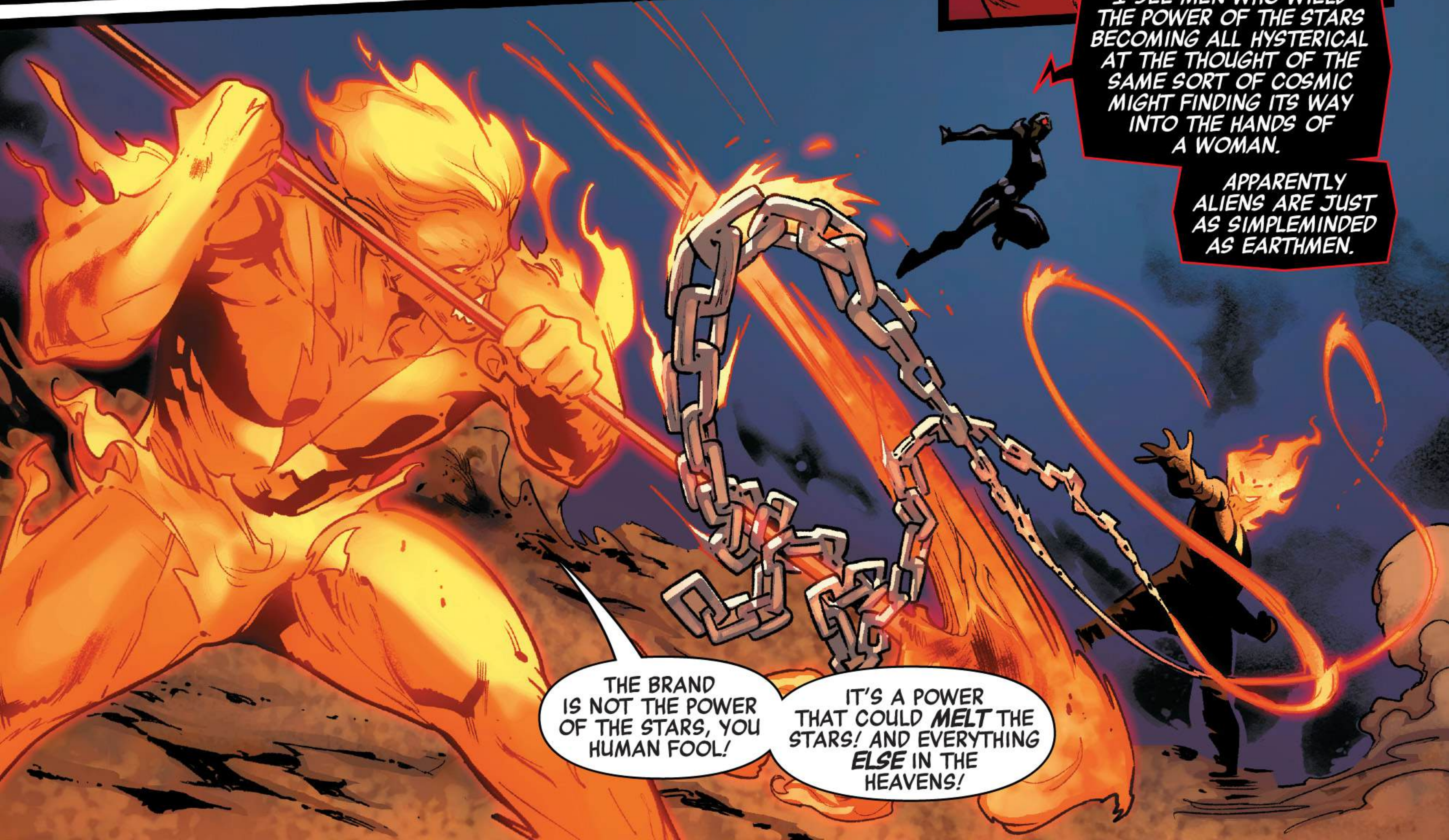
MY MOTHER WAS MURDERED WHILE I WAS BEING BORN, SO DON'T TALK TO **ME** ABOUT YOUR **BLEEDING** HEART!



I WANNA SEE IT **BLEED** WITH MY OWN VAMP EYES!

I SEE MEN WHO WIELD THE POWER OF THE STARS BECOMING ALL HYSTERICAL AT THE THOUGHT OF THE SAME SORT OF COSMIC MIGHT FINDING ITS WAY INTO THE HANDS OF A WOMAN.

APPARENTLY ALIENS ARE JUST AS SIMPLEMINDED AS EARTHMEN.



THE BRAND IS NOT THE POWER OF THE STARS, YOU HUMAN FOOL!

IT'S A POWER THAT COULD **MELT** THE STARS! AND EVERYTHING **ELSE** IN THE HEAVENS!



FIRELORD IS RIGHT. THE EVIDENCE IS ALL AROUND US. THE STARBRAND UNCHECKED COULD BE THE DOOM OF THE UNIVERSE.



BUT WHERE THERE IS LIFE, THERE IS *HOPE*. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY CREED.

GAAGH! NORRIN, YOU BLASTED TRAITOR!



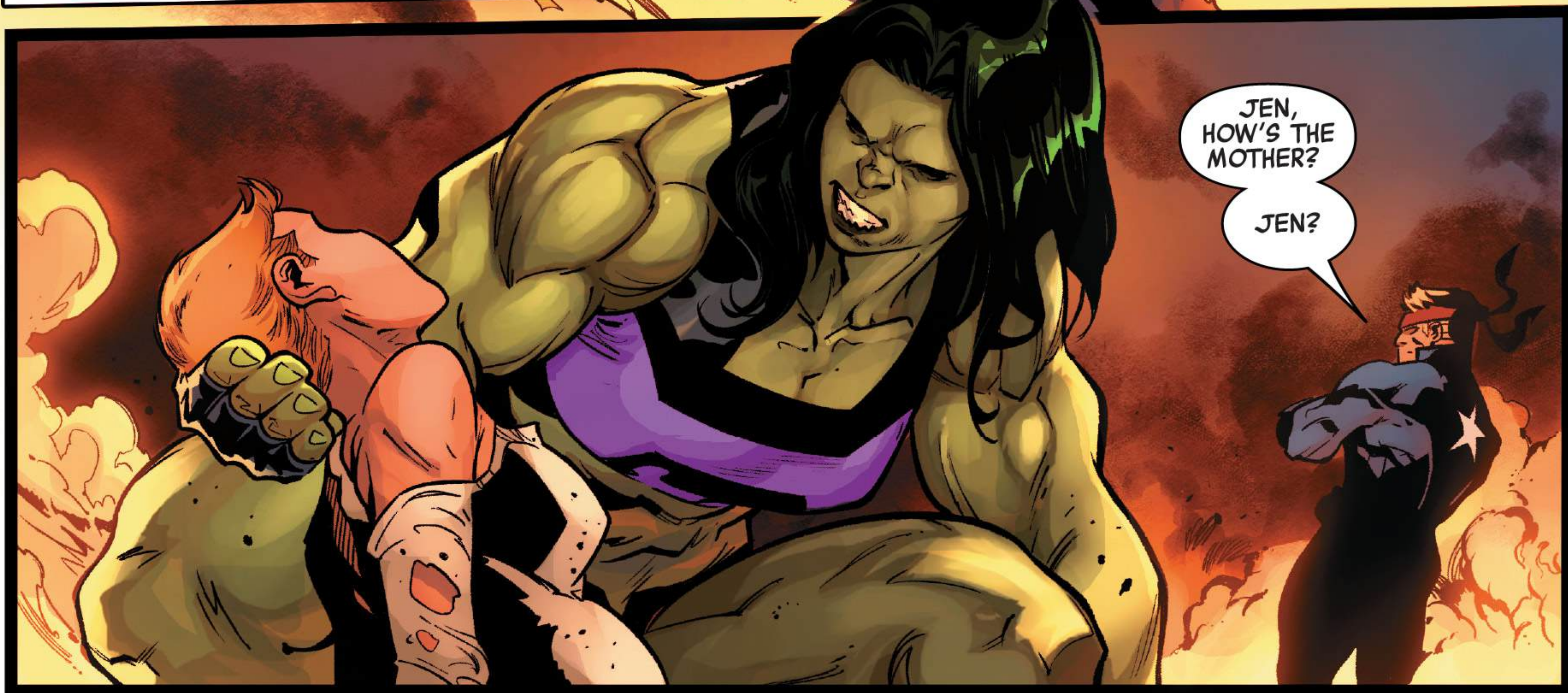
"AND BEHOLD... THERE IS *LIFE*."

GRRRRRRGGH! GOT TO...GET AWAY FROM THIS PLACE! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...



...MY BABY WILL GO HOME!

AARGH!



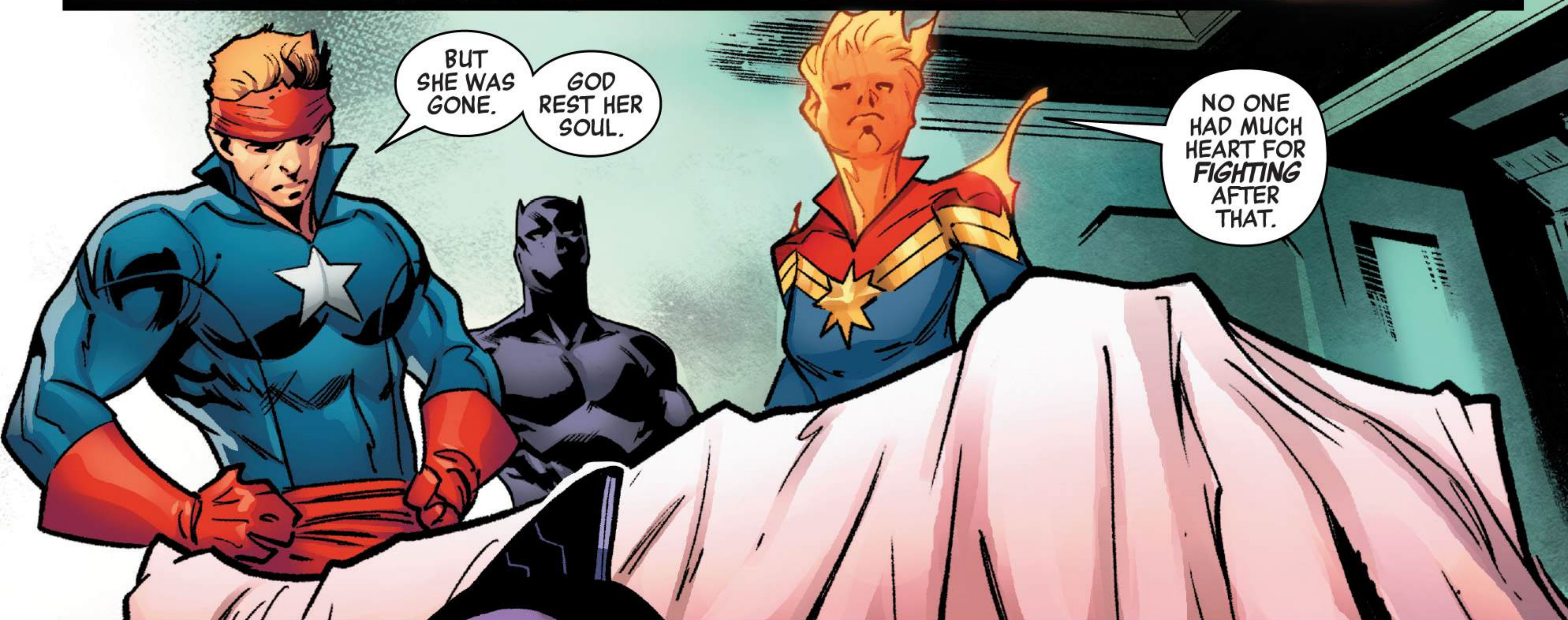


NO PULSE.

GET BACK!

CLEAR!

"WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD TO REVIVE HER."



BUT SHE WAS GONE.

GOD REST HER SOUL.

NO ONE HAD MUCH HEART FOR FIGHTING AFTER THAT.

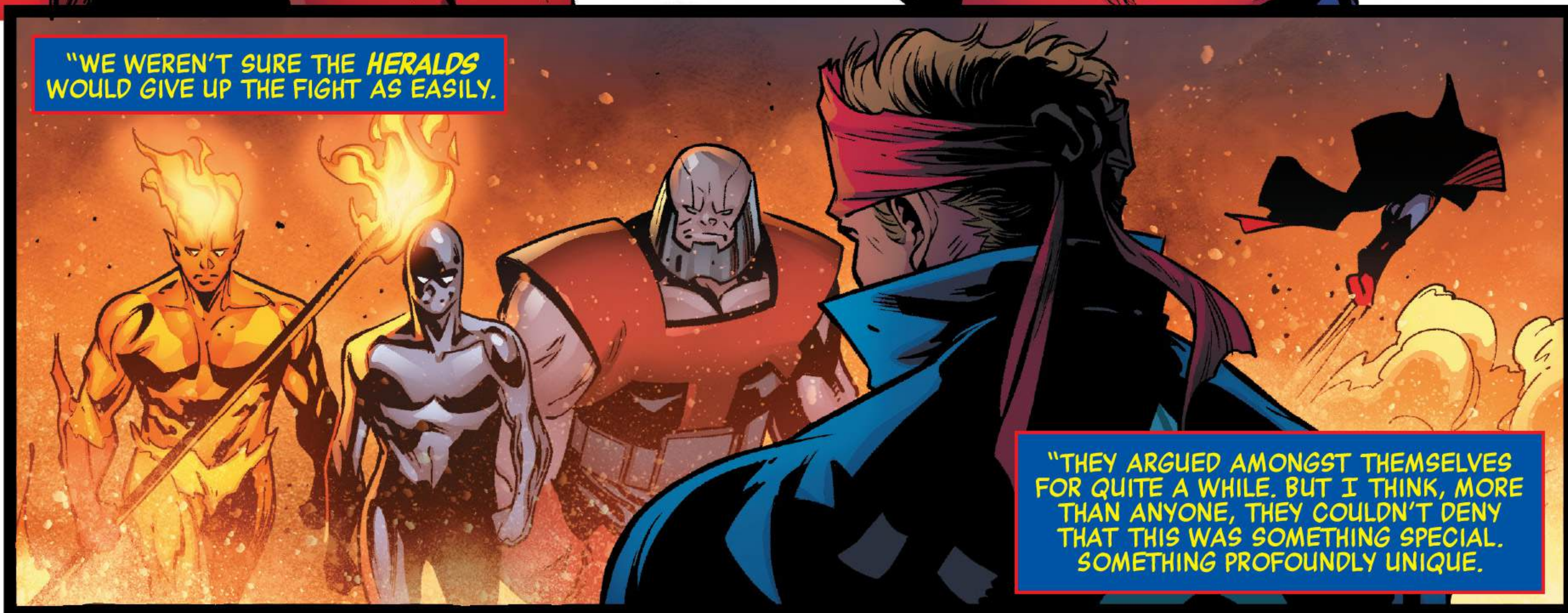
"NOT EVEN THE SHI'AR."

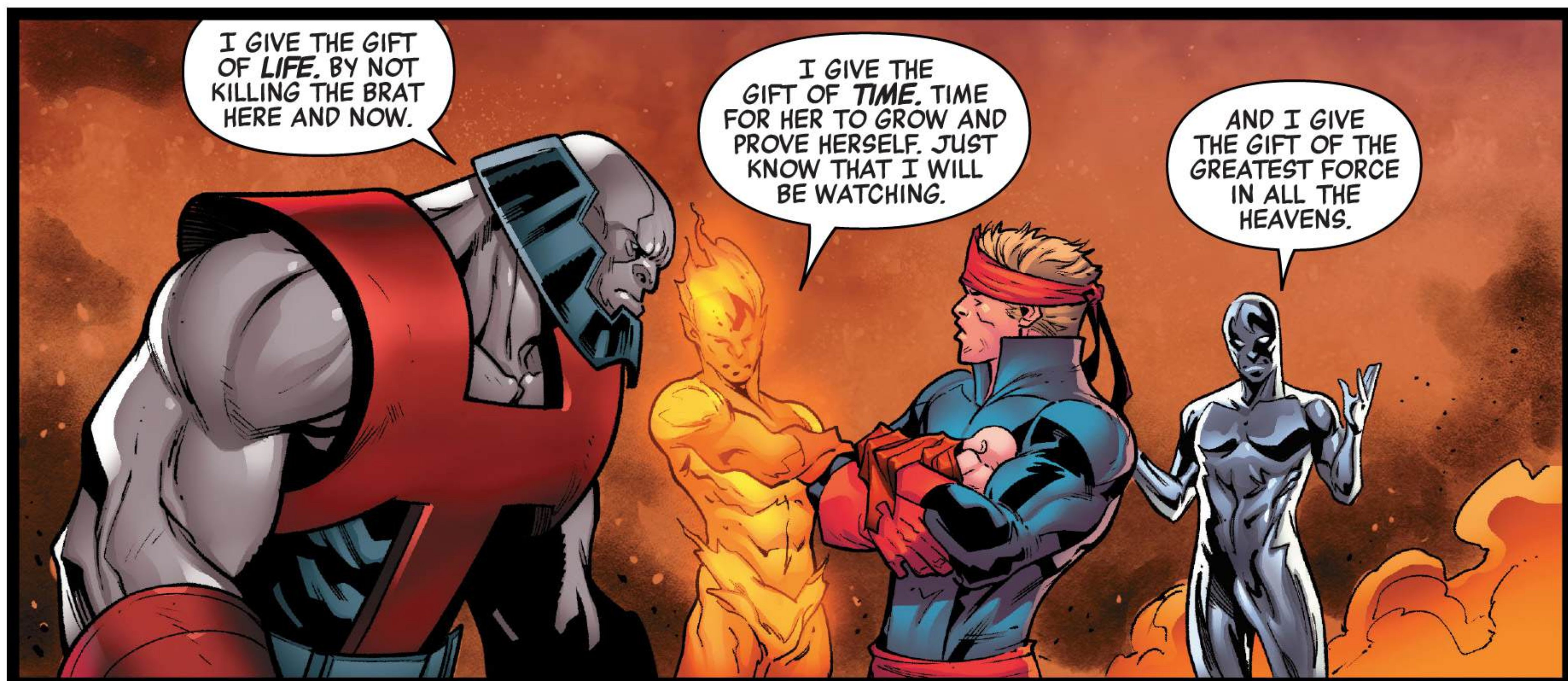
⇒CRACKLE⇒
RADIATION FALLING,
TRANSMISSION
SHOULD BE ABLE TO
⇒KRRRZZZ⇒

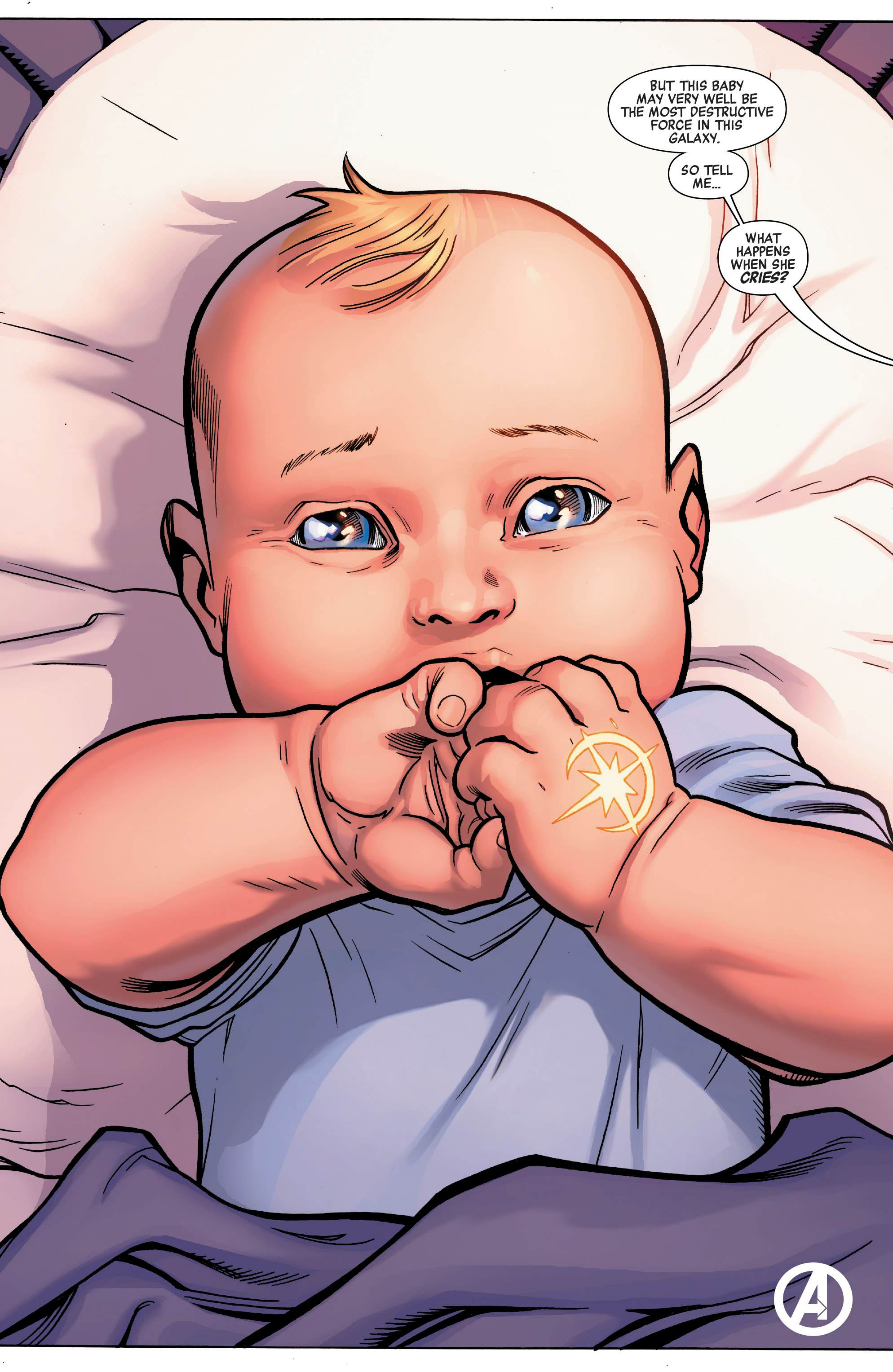
MAJESTOR KALLARK,
THIS IS RAVENSTARR
KILLSTATION PRIME. WE HAVE
APOCALYPSE-CLASS
DREADNOUGHTS WARPING
TO YOUR POSITION,
NEGA-BOMBS PRIMED.

TELL THEM
TO STAND
DOWN.

SEND A
MEDICAL FRIGATE
INSTEAD.







BUT THIS BABY
MAY VERY WELL BE
THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE
FORCE IN THIS
GALAXY.

SO TELL
ME...

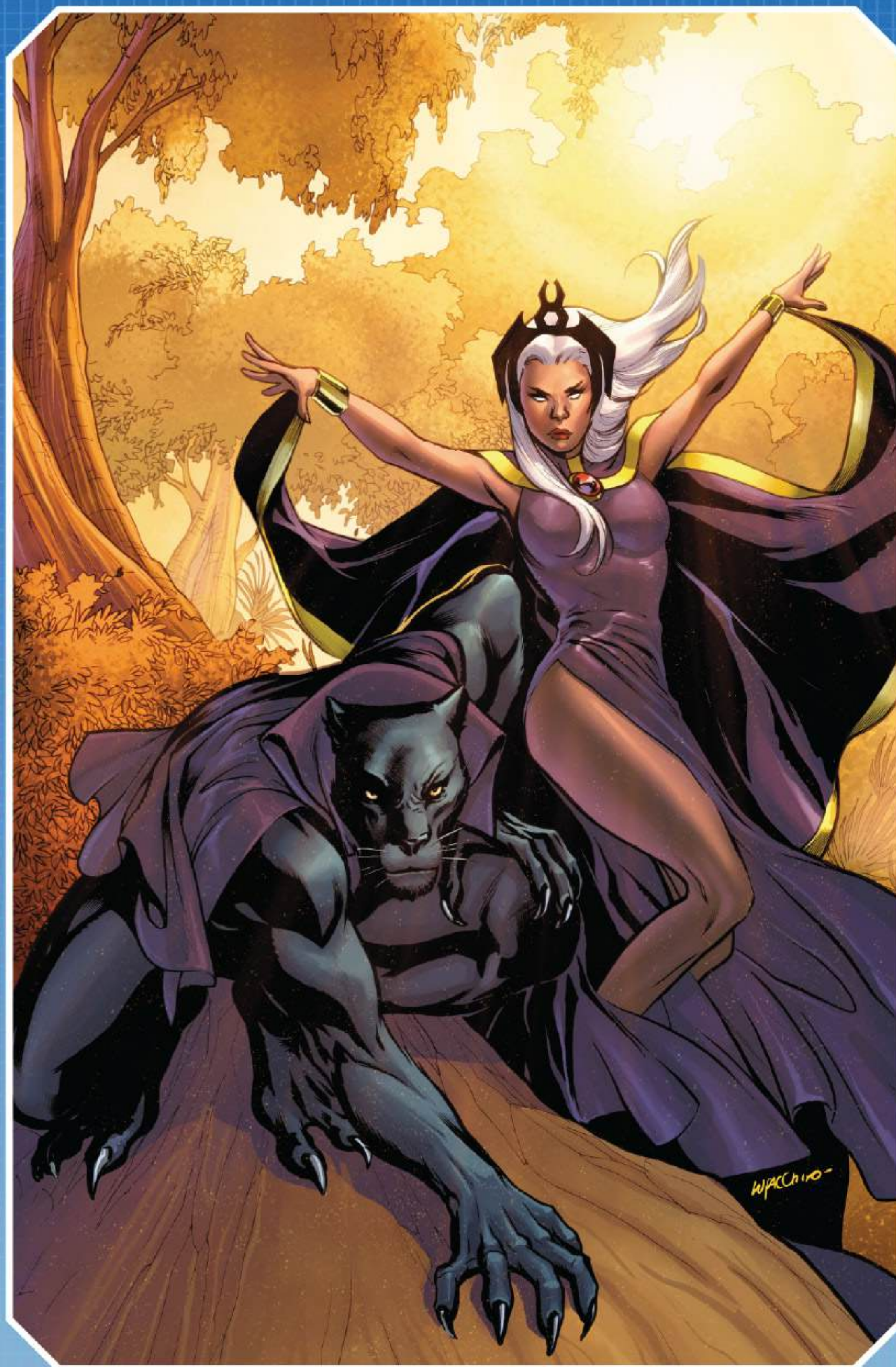
WHAT
HAPPENS
WHEN SHE
cries?



ALEX ROSS
26 MARVELS 25TH ANNIVERSARY
VARIANT



**EMA LUPACCHINO
& JASON KEITH**
28 2020 VARIANT



EMA LUPACCHINO & RACHELLE ROSENBERG
29 MARVELS X VARIANT



KHOI PHAM & MORRY HOLLOWELL
30 MARVELS X VARIANT

“Jason Aaron really enjoys playing in space, and he makes great fun for readers out in the great unknown.” — ComicBook.com

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MARVEL

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